

STATE OF NEW YORK

COUNTY OF ALBANY

CITY OF ALBANY

JULY 2, 2015

The following statement was taken from Inmate DAVID SWEAT at Albany Medical Center on July 2, 2015, by members of the Department of Corrections and Community Services (DOCCS).

The letters [REDACTED] will denote questions/statements of Investigator [REDACTED]

The letters [REDACTED] will denote questions/statements of Investigator [REDACTED]).

The letter "A" will denote answers/statements provided by Inmate DAVID SWEAT.

[REDACTED] I know you've been answering and asked a lot of questions, but you know this is a formality we have to go through, so we got some more things for you and first we just want to get to know you a little bit really. Tell me about your childhood, did you spend a long time in the woods and stuff like that?

A. Well, not really.

[REDACTED] Where did you exactly grow up? Like was it, I know it was Broome County, right INAUDIBLE Binghamton?

A. For the most part when I was young, I grew up in Binghamton. You know, I always went fishing and stuff like that when I was little. But to actually spend time in the woods, not so much. For whatever the reason is, I have an acute habit of being able to learn very very quickly, as opposed to other people and I adapt to things pretty fast. So if I don't know something, it only takes me a few minutes to understand it.

[REDACTED] Like what sort of things would you say?

A. It doesn't even matter what it is. My only issues that I've ever had is spelling. Other than that, I learn everything else quickly, real quick.

[REDACTED] Was with what?

A. With Spelling. That's the only problem I've ever really had.

[REDACTED] Like talking to you, you seem kind of math, science, you make good decisions, I wouldn't say you make great decisions.

A. Yeah, well quick decisions, maybe not good decisions all the time (laughing).

[REDACTED] Go ahead.

[REDACTED] Did you go to any camps or anything like that younger, outdoor type camps or anything like that?

A. Nothing that taught me really anything for outdoor stuff, but when I was a kid I was a firebug, I like playing with fire, so I understood fire. So you know I could make fire quick just about out of anything. I'm very retentive, if I see something I don't have to do something to understand it, all I have to do is see it, then I can understand. If somebody else does it, I'm good, you only gotta show me once.

█. You've been aware of that since from a young age that you're able to do that?

A. I wasn't aware of it until I got a little older, but it was always there even when I was younger. I never really took advantage of it until I was older, when I started to, I INAUDIBLE one of them social groups and stuff. I'm usually not the guy that talks a lot.

█. You're observing, listening?

A. Right. I always observe, always listen. Because you learn more from listening than you do talking.

█. Same thing in prison?

A. Yeah. But you know I'd go camping, there is times when I went camping and stuff and you know it was tents, it was with family members you know, we would take food and stuff. And you'd go to state parks and stuff, it wasn't like you were really going out into the woods to go camping. It was just, to me most of the stuff is obvious. You know, you gotta have shelter, you know gotta stay warm, if you get cold you gotta move around. Just navigation stuff is simple, you know, sunrise in the east, settles in the west. Can follow the stars at night. Nine times out of ten, the wind always blows from the west to the east even though it might go to the north or the south, but the weather pattern always goes across the state you know, to the east.

█. You know that just from looking at things, observing things watching t.v.

A. From observations, correct.

█. Do you read a lot?

A. Not really. I've read a few books, most of the time when I read stuff, I read like automotive books because I want to learn how to do cars, so I read that. I read...

█. Was that when you were younger or since you've been in?

A. I read automotive book when I bought, and read it on my first bid. I was in Washington because I wanted to get out and become an auto mechanic. So I read the book and after that I was good at auto mechanics. Just being able to read it. Because if I made a mistake, INAUDIBLE, I made a mistake, I just go back and re-read that section to correct myself and then I'd go onto the next section.

█. The first time we talked, a lot of the stuff, just certain things like not getting to the top of a ridge where you're silhouetted or covering certain grounds. That stuff that you get out of survivalist book and certain magazines and stuff.

A. I've read, there's a couple of books. I've always liked watching like Vietnam movies and stuff like that, and you'll hear the guys tell each other that, oh stay off the ridge they can see your

silhouette or, you know, there's other tactics like putting brush in your clothes to change your silhouette, so you don't look, because when people spot you from a distance, they don't actually spot you, they spot your silhouette.

■ You mean like the sharp contours of a person's body?

A. Right. Exactly.

■ Actually I did 28 years in the military and still in the reserves and you know your mindset very much seems like the hardcore military. People, that I know, ■ and everybody, and just it reminds me of that sort of direct manner and it's just kind of interesting how you pick stuff up. How your mind works, which is not like everyone else's mind works, I think.

A. When I was a kid that was something I always wanted to do, and when I got out of prison the first time, I actually tried to go into the military, the Marines told me I had to get a year of college credits, and the Army told me...

■ They didn't care about the first bid or anything like that?

A. They said they could get right through that, they said it's not a big deal, we can work around that. The army said we'll take you as soon as you get off parole. What ended up happening was my son's mother got pregnant before I got off parole and that kind of screwed everything up. I don't want to leave her by herself and then screwed everything up even worse by not going.

■ Right.

A. I've already had that mindset. But I've read books like "Swimmers amongst the Trees: United States Navy Seals in Vietnam", I've read books like things from Richard Marcinko, I don't know if you know who he is.

■ The seal?

A. Right, he was the guy that developed and started Seal Team Six.

■ Oh, okay. Was this stuff you were reading while you were in or out?

A. Both out or in.

■ Yeah.

A. Just because that was kind of, that was my interest. I always found that stuff kind of interesting.

■ It is wildly interesting.

A. Yeah. But those were always what I was more into reading, if I was reading, but I didn't read very often.

■ While in, was there any spy manuals or anything floating around or anything at the library like that or certain magazines that were being ordered that you got in, nothing like that?

A. No.

■ Is it easy to order stuff in like that?

A. No. Everything goes through, any magazines or books is sent through either review and you're not getting any of that. You're not even getting field and stream books.

■ So most of the stuff you read is stuff you read on the outside?

A. Right.

■ Because of your interests out?

A. Yeah or stuff you see on t.v. too. There's a lot of military stuff going on.

■ Yeah that's true.

A. So.

■ [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]?

A. Yeah. I enjoyed shooting ...

■ You said you liked the Glock?

A. Yeah, see, I like the Glock, because ...

■ That's our weapon too.

A. It's a very, it's a very good choice, because it doesn't matter if you drop the damn thing in the water, or to get it dirty, it will still shoot.

■ It's simple.

A. It's simple, just like the AK simple to break down, it's easy to clean, and it will shoot in just about any type of weather conditions. So it's a very good and it's accurate. I love shooting, just for shooting itself. I'm very, very good at it.

■ Yeah. Is that something that you got good at through you know determination and developing your skill or were you just sort of naturally good at it?

A. Just sort of naturally good at it.

■ But you practiced as well?

A. Yeah, yes. I would challenge myself and I would do stupid shit where, you know usually people would set the target down range and they'd shoot the target, try to get the best. I'd stick thumbtacks in it and then try to shoot the thumbtacks out. Even with something as small as a 22. I'd go a hundred yards out, INAUDIBLE yourself so you gotta really actually learn the gun itself, which way the shell is going to travel and then the air and all that other stuff.

■ Did you do that at a young age, later on?

A. A little later on.

■ Right, when you were how old?

A. Probably about 20. I only shot a few guns when I was young, but even then I always had, for whatever reason, I always had a real good shot.

■ You have good eye sight?

A. Well it's for whatever reason, from a distance things are a little fuzzy. But my mind still picks it out so I never really miss.

■ You don't wear glasses or anything?

A. No, I did when I was little.

■ Oh really?

A. Yeah.

■ I know I know this from reviewing your records and stuff, but what was the highest grade you completed?

A. I think I quit in 9th, only got a GED.

■ Where were you then?

A. It was when I was in a group home.

■ Where did you go to school then?

A. Oh uhm...

■ It must have been a high school?

A. No, I think that the last actual time I completed a grade was, I was in a group home and they had their own school, in House of Good Shepherd in Utica.

■ Oh okay.

■ Oh really?

A. Yeah.

■ No kidding?

A. Yeah, and not a bad place either.

■ Yeah.

A. And then I went to Binghamton High but I got out before the school year was over and I just didn't have the drive to keep going, the classes were too slow, it was just, I couldn't pay attention. I just, they learned, you know because you have to learn at the class rate and it's just, it was too much for me.

■ What about earlier than that, like when you know, did you like school, not like school?

A. I hated school, because like, I would be done before everybody else and it would, then I would be sitting around.

■ Did you do well, like on the stuff like that, it would seem you know with your...

A. Well when I was in the House of Good Shepherd, I was only there for maybe a year or two. And I actually went because I'm such a troubled kid when I was young, I never really did school stuff. I actually went from third grade to ninth grade in like a year. I completed everything. Because they allowed you to work at your own pace. The classrooms were small, the teachers would work with you one on one and for half the day I had a tutor to help me with the cursive and the spelling and all that other stuff, so I zipped right through everything.

■ Do you remember any of your teachers there or anything like that?

A. By face, not by name.

■ Yeah.

A. I'm horrible with names.

■ What was it, we're not going to psycho-analyze you but we're just kind of, it gives a lot of background and stuff. Like wondering about what sort of caused you to go one way versus ...

A. Yeah, I'm not real sure. I just don't think I had the right guidance, the right people around me, you know saying well this is how you should be doing it. I didn't have anybody to follow, so any direction I went, I was kind of going on my own. My mother was on welfare half the time, all she wanted to do was sit in front of the damn t.v. and drink, or you know, smoke. She weighed like 400 pounds when I was a kid, so she didn't want to do anything. I never really had a father around or anything. There was guys around, sort of like father figures.

■ Like relatives and stuff?

A. Well like my mother had a boyfriend on and off since she was like 18. But he wasn't a good figure either, because he never had a job, he was always doing his odds and end things, so never had anybody really around for any type of education or any type of practical mindset to show me the direction, or help guide me in the directions I needed to go. When I was in the group home, I had that. As soon as I got out of the group home, I lost that perspective and ended up right around the same people I was around before I got in group home.

■ The group home worked pretty well actually?

A. Yeah, actually the group home worked great. It really did.

■ I know the House of Good Shepherd is sort of a Catholic thing.

A. Yeah, it was just, they were the only ones that would take me at the time.

■ Okay, so that wasn't like a choice or religious affiliation that you made?

A. No, no, no, not at all.

■ So you find yourself you know, obviously INAUDIBLE everybody knows what you did, now you find yourself in Clinton. Kind of, we're just a little background of your personal INAUDIBLE was going on, and just because you didn't have any disciplinary or anything like that, so how did you stay under the radar?

A. Well you know just, you know I don't do drugs. The whole problem in prison, drugs, gambling, you know, messing around with the homos or telling on people, I did none of that. As long as you're not doing that, people really don't bother you. And I'm pleasant. If I do something for somebody, I don't want nothing for it. I did that for you, because if I didn't like you I wouldn't do it for you. So you know, people always offer you stuff, but no, no I'm good, don't worry about it, if you have any more problems, INAUDIBLE headphones or something stupid, you know you need to see if I can get you something. It's not a problem, the people, really, they respect you for that. You get a lot of respect for that, then other people tell other people and their friends and the key in prison is hierarchy, as I'm sure you guys know, that guys that are higher up in groups and gangs and stuff; if they like you, you're good, because nobody below them are gonna bother you. So I always, for whatever reason, I always had the right people around me and the right people always knew me, "Dave's cool man, Dave's alright". I'll go out of my way to argue for you, like if we're in the shop and they're getting ready to fire you, I'll go up there and be like come on don't fire him, give him another chance and I'll talk to them, just give him a chance ...

■ You would do that for others?

A. Oh yeah, absolutely. A lot of times. And that gave me a lot of respect and even the civilians because of the amount of work that I would do myself including fixing machines and stuff and actually keeping the shop running, would give me the respect to where they would allow them to stay, and give them a second chance.

■ You had a little bit of leverage because you could make the civilian lives a little easier?

A. Right, absolutely. Because they didn't have to do so much work. I would take a little bit of that burden from them.

■ ■ was asking about your bid, your earlier bid, that was at Washington, did you say?

A. Washington was my first bid.

■ Your first bid.

A. That was a little rough. My first bid was a little rough. Because I was a little smaller, I didn't have a lot of people around me, I was young, a lot of young kids in there. You know I had stuff stolen from me. One kid tried to hit me in the head with a fucking cane in a sock, because guys ended up beating him up for stealing my stuff. So he came after me, I jumped over a wall so he couldn't hit me. I didn't tell on him or nothing, but when the CO's came in to lock everything down, because they didn't know who jumped over wall or nothing. They thought it was me but they weren't sure. They ended up moving me out because somebody else said, well that was him, he jumped over the wall and they found the other kid had bruises and contusions on him, where everybody else kicked the shit out of him. So, it was a little rough but it wasn't too bad. I worked the industry there too.

How long were you there?

A. Almost two years, I think.

What was your industry job there?

A. I was a welder, I was welding. I learned that there. And I excelled there too, using the milling machines to make the dyes for press machines, for tubings, any type of special projects that they needed, myself and my work partner INADUDIBLE anything needed that came in, carts that they stacked chairs on, they needed fabricated. We would do all that work and stuff.

So that's where you learned to work with metal then?

A. Yeah, well not, the only thing we really did there was just cut stuff and INAUDIBLE it. It's all to me, it's practically the same, no different than doing wood or anything else. You're just using a harder material. You just change the types of tools that you're using. It's basically the same.

Did you enjoy that kind of work as well?

A. Oh yeah, I loved it. Any kind of work I can build stuff with my hands and do things. I absolutely love. Anything that is different and knew to me, I love doing.

It's a little, for me, it's a little off subject but like do those programs do you feel like work for prisoners, like you, it sounds like you gain some okay skills with it?

A. Oh yeah, I could...

■ Enjoying it while you're doing it.

A. I think with any program, it all depends on the individual and whether or not they want it to work for them. Because a lot of times the guys will go in there and they'll just go through the motions, as opposed to actually learning and you know could actually take that skill set to the street. Most of them don't, because they don't care, you know for whatever reason, a low IQ or whatever, they're just plain ignorant.

How long were you in Washington did you say?

A. Almost two years, a year and a half, almost two years.

■ When you left there, you were out?

A. Yeah, after I left there they send me to INAUDIBLE for just two months and then I went home.

■ And then what happened then? After you went home, you were on parole?

A. I got a job, I did good. I had the same job for about two years.

■ That was automotive?

A. No, no actually I tried to get in automotive stuff but it didn't quite work out, a lot of, you know because of the background being in prison and stuff, it's been hard. I ended up getting a factory job, I worked at a factory [REDACTED], they make the motors for shop vacs, it's pretty neat. Did line technician job, line supervisor, I filled in for a line supervisor, different things like

that where you're running the whole, a whole line's probably two, three-hundred foot long with probably about ten or fifteen different people on it.

■ And you said that was interesting? You liked that?

A. Yeah I liked that, because it kept you busy. It was always something different every day.

■ You said a couple of years you were there?

A. Yeah I was there for like two years.

■ What was the name of the company?

A. ■.

■ That was in?

A. Binghamton.

■ So how long were you out then?

A. I think I was out just under three year's total.

■ Why did you leave the job?

A. ■ was having a lot of problems, her pregnancy and stuff, she had to keep calling me and I had to keep leaving work. And they didn't like that too much. And I felt it was more important to be with her than at the job so.

■ Were you guys involved at the time? Like you were continuing to be together?

A. Oh yeah, yeah. I was with her the whole time from pregnancy and everything.

■ But she was somebody who you had a strong relationship with?

A. Yeah, probably one of the strongest relationships I ever had with a female, absolutely.

■ And her name again?

A. ■.

■ She was from the ■ area also?

A. Yeah, she lived outside of ■. I met her through a girl, who worked at the company with me, at ■. I met her at a bowling alley and we all went out to eat, took them out to eat and stuff. We ended up hitting it off.

■ How long were you together?

A. I'd say probably, probably just over, just around two years probably, maybe a little longer than that.

■ Yeah.

A. A little longer than two years, before I got arrested.

■ On the?

A. On this bid, yeah.

■ How old is your son now?

A. Now? This is, ■.

■ When did you last see him?

A. I haven't seen him in ■. She moved out, it was hard. That's what she needed to do for her and for him.

■ Were you guys together when you went in on this bid?

A. Yeah. We were having a rough patch, my fault.

■ Did you maintain contact with them at all?

A. Yeah, yep.

■ When is the last time?

A. I haven't wrote him this year, I wrote, I was writing him back and forth last year.

■ Was he writing back as well?

A. Yeah. But you know he's a kid, so he doesn't write very much.

■ It's hard.

A. Yeah. But I figured anyway with school and being a kid. You don't want to sit down and write a letter. He'd rather play on the computer or video game or something.

■ So how old are you when he, you were in your early 20's?

A. Yeah, it was tough, I was 21 when she got pregnant with him, 22 I think when she had him.

■ What about her, how old is she?

A. She's three years younger than I am.

■ So you come in on this bid and you're in Clinton. 2003, right?

A. Yes.

■ Where did you start out there? What block?

A. C Block.

■ C Block.

A. I stayed in C Block for seven years.

■ And what job did you have there?

A. Industry. I started off in Tailor 3. I ended up getting the weekend porter spot, almost right away. The guy that was, the weekend porter had left and there's another weekend porter, there's always two. He came and he says "yo DAVE", he says what are you in jail for? I said "gotta cop buy-in" the fucking retards, they love that shit. He says I'm gonna get you out as a porter one INAUDIBLE. So I won't have to go to the bathhouse no more, because if you're the weekend porter you get out, the shower is on the company. So I ended up staying in C Block for seven years as a weekend porter.

■ Who did that for you?

A. Another inmate. Because they want the two porters that are out, they want them to get along. They gotta have a good rapport with each other, because you're not, you're supervised a little bit, but not a lot. INAUDIBLE back then they used to open everybody's gates so they'd open four gates at a time, so they could sweep their cell out, and mop their cell.

■ And as a porter that gets you a lot of face time with the other inmates?

A. INAUDIBLE and being there for a long time, steady, you establish long good relationships.

■ So seven years in C Block?

A. Seven years in C Block.

■ And then where do you go?

A. And then my buddies decided they're going to put me in for A Block, because I didn't actually put in for A Block, my friends put me in for it.

■ Meaning the Honor Block?

A. Yeah the Honor Block. So I ended up going from there to Honor Block. And I've been on Honor Block ever since.

■ When you say you're buddies, how does that work?

A. Well, you know you just write the lieutenant a request to go to Honor Block, so, and I kept telling him I'm gonna put in for Honor Block, I'm going to Honor Block, but they really wanted me to go. So we ended up putting a slip in for me, and they kept laughing and joking for like two weeks, like "hey did you get that paper work yet"? What paper work? "Oh you didn't get it, alright you'll know when you get it." And they're laughing at me. I couldn't figure it out. So like a week and a half goes by, most weeks, I get a thing in the mail said you've been accepted to Honor Block and now I'm Honor Block.

■ And that was staff right?

A. Yes, staff does that, all through lieutenant. There is no INAUDIBLE stuff there, that was just straight housework. No tickets, no nothing, you can put in for Honor Block. Ya know lieutenant didn't know who wrote in to ask to go to Honor Block, he just knew that I asked to go.

■ Alright, so you get an Honor Block, you get down to the shops at that point?

A. Already in the shop.

█ Already in the shop, so you're already doing the sewing and stuff like that. What shop were you in at that point?

A. I'm still in Tailor 3.

█ Tailor 3. Okay.

A. The only reason we switched from Tailor 3 to Tailor 1, I don't remember the exact timing, is because the wall in Tailor 3 had kicked out on its own. It was unsafe, so they moved it, and Tailor 1 was closed. There was nobody in the shop using it. So they moved the whole Tailor 3 into Tailor 1, INAUDIBLE Tailor 1.

█ When was that?

A. I'm not really sure. It had been a few years.

█ The designations of Tailor Shops, 1, 2, 3, 8; does that denote just where it is or what you're doing?

A. It's where it is and what you're doing. Different shops do different types of materials and things like that.

█ You were in 1 and 8 I think.

A. Yeah.

█ What was the difference there?

A. Pant shops. Eight did coats and stuff. They switch you around too, I've done almost everything that the industry does; coats, pants, smocks, shirts, jumpsuits, overalls, all that stuff.

█ So at that point, you're pretty ya know, as far as being in jail, you're pretty set up and happy?

A. Comfortable.

█ Say you're comfortable, got no problems...

A. None whatsoever.

█ ...with inmates or staff or anything like that?

A. No.

█ At what point do you feel like you're not comfortable anymore?

A. It just with Vicky, Vicky, because she got in a fight. That's what ..

█ We do want to hear about that, so why don't you tell us like sort of how that developed and what the problem was with her.

A. It happened over time. She's a very ignorant woman. She's never wrong even if she is wrong. All the ideas are her ideas, we didn't come up with shit. If you tell her something is wrong, like you

point something out, you're automatically lying, you don't know what the hell you're talking about. So you have to ask her, can you show me how to do it. And she'll screw the thing up, and you can ask any of the civilians, they'll tell you. She messed up all the polo shirts that they just had and blame it on INAUDIBLE. And then show the shop how to do it, because you can't do it. So we had, over long periods of time, we would bump heads a lot, you know by me telling her things and I always did it nice, I always took her to the side, said you know this is wrong, having a problem with this, I'm having a problem with that. If we do this, or we do that we can fix the problem. "Oh no, no, we're not doing nothing, no, no. I'll show you how to do it."

■ What was her role exactly?

A. She was a quality control.

■ So she was in all the different tailor shops?

A. Yeah, she went to all the different tailor shops to check quality and she hated when people would tell her the stuff was wrong. And you can never tell her she's wrong. Ever. She won't accept it. And she had tried a couple of times to get me fired, and I had a habit of, once you really get me going, and I'm trying to be nice about things, and I'm trying to tell you, ya know, mistakes and stuff. Well I've had it with her, I'll just be like you know what, you're wrong you don't know what the hell you're talking about. I'm trying to tell you, you're being an asshole and she'll flip out for that, because then you're not really supposed to talk like that, but I mean at some point it's like I don't even know why I'm talking to you, if you're not even going to, I'm trying to help you help us so we can get this stuff out. Because we're all supposed to be working together to get it out, and it's like I'm trying to fight an uphill battle.

■ Right.

A. Constant, ya know. She tried to get me fired so many times, it's not funny.

■ And how would she try to get you fired, what would that involve? It would seem like it would be easy if she wanted to get you fired as the shop supervisor. You knew how to do stuff.

A. Right. That's what always saved me and what also always saved me is all the other civilians know that I'm one of the hardest working people in there. Most people, as an example, will sew two, two and a half dozen pants a day for the whole day. I'll sew ten dozen by myself for the whole day, no problem. So it's hard to turn around and fire somebody like that who's not really doing anything other than pointing stuff out. I'm always the first person to speak up when something is wrong. Oh, when guys are having problems, they don't like it. She hated that, so she went like, the one time that I remember the most was when she went down to ■ who is the Superintendent, and try to tell ■ "Sweat's up there, he's trying to, he's controlling production, we're not getting production out because he's telling everybody to go slow". ■ knew it was a lie because I just been down to her office and had a conversation with her, trying to figure out a way to get the material up easier, to make sure that we have what we need to put stuff together, so we can get a higher production out. And get a higher bonus. Because my whole thing was more bonus.

■ Yeah, what was in it for you?

A. Yeah more bonus, more money. So the more production I get out, the more money I get. So I'm always pushing people to do more. And it got kind of, with the inmates, a lot of them don't want to do nothing, because they're convicts, right. Half of them never had a job in their life. But you know, once you can get them going, they're good.

■ Yeah.

A. You know they come to you ahh look what I did. That's right you're getting it, you're getting it, not too bad. So they kind of like, give them a little feeling of you're doing good, but you can do a little more.

■ You felt like you were pretty decent at managing the people like that?

A. Oh absolutely.

■ Yeah. So, I'm thinking if it's me, I'm and STAFFORD's wrong, I'm going to the next line of supervisors and say can you do anything about this, she's fucking it up?

A. Next line supervisor, SCOTT SCHOLIS, ■.

■ I'm thinking about the one below that.

A. Oh, you can't go below her, because they're afraid of her, they're all afraid of her.

■ So would JOYCE have been one below her?

A. Yeah.

■ Alright, so go ahead. Talk about SCHOLIS.

A. Yeah, so even the other civilians when she went and told ■ "oh SWEAT's trying to control the production".

■ ■ was who, she was a?

A. She was the, at that time, she was the...

■ Dep of program?

A. The Superintendent of Industry. And JOYCE MITCHELL wasn't my supervisor. BRAD STREETER was. And even BRAD was like that's bullshit, and the other civilians INAUDIBLE that's not true, SWEAT is not controlling production. Sweat's the only one up there working his ass off. Ya know, so they already knew, she already knew BRAD said something to ■ when ■ come up, how much longer do I have to pay for this because SWEAT said something to VICKI and VICKI didn't like it because VICKI would come in, if you pissed her off, she would come in and mess your whole shop up. She would nit-pick everything, even stuff that really wasn't wrong. Oh these are all wrong, you gotta tear 'em all out and re-do all of them. So ■ said listen, I'll take care of it, don't worry about it and she actually ended up yelling at VICKI, told her, you know leave them alone, leave Tailor alone, SWEAT is not controlling production. Stop messing with the shop.

- Controlling production, but in a good way.
- A. Right, yeah. Well she meant it in a negative. And that really pissed her off, and then a couple days later she came up and was, because she really wanted production up, oh you gotta get these guys working. I said "whoa, whoa, whoa, I said that is not my job, you can't tell me to go tell people to work". I says you're creating INAUDIBLE. Oh don't start INAUDIBLE. Well you're telling me to go tell people to work, that's exactly what you're saying. You're telling me to go tell them to do their job. I can't do that, I'm instructor. My only job is to instruct them how to do their job. What they produce or don't produce is up to the civilian. "Oh, that's not what I'm saying." She's stormed off and left, because she's good for that.
- Good for what?
- A. No, telling you to do stuff you're not supposed to do.
- Purposely?
- A. Yeah. We had a problem with a bonus, so we brought it to her attention, said this doesn't make any sense to us, this bonus is too low. Her and Ms. J both were in here and the whole shop was up there. "Oh well, its Tailor 2, they're going too slow, you gotta problem with it, you go talk to the inmates in Tailor 2." "What?" "We can't do that, what are you, crazy?" You're telling us to go argue with people in other shops about our bonus. What're you trying to get us to start fights, trying to get us stabbed in the yard? You can't do that, that's the security of this thing. There is a whole thing behind that too. There was a few times when she ...
- So it was an ongoing thing where just little things. And you refer to her as VICKI, did you call her that?
- A. Yeah.
- While you were there?
- A. VICKI, SCOTT SCHOLIS, we called SCOTT.
- You call them all by their names?
- A. Yes, because a lot of the civilians, I'm glad you realize that too, because I almost forgot about that. That's part of my ticket. They ask them, that's what they tell you to call them. We don't just call them that. I wouldn't just call somebody by their first name. Ms. MITCHELL, that's all I ever called her. I never called her JOYCE, or TILLY. All the other civilians call her TILLY, they don't call her JOYCE. I never called her that. I always called her Ms. MITCHELL. BRAD STREETER, he INAUDIBLE if you call him BRAD. All the other inmates do call him BRAD. Same with a lot of civilians. There was certain civilians that you call them "Ms. J" or "Mr. J", you know, you just use their initial for their last name.
- What's INAUDIBLE.
- A. ■ and ■ is the female, she's the one of the Grade 18's or something that walks around. She's the head of several of the shops, she's a supervisor for several of the shops. And

then [REDACTED] I believe now is the second assistant superintendent. I think that's what he is now. He was the INAUDIBLE.

[REDACTED] You even know their grades, their pay grades, where do you pick that up from? They talk about?

A. Oh yeah, them people talk a lot. They're, as much as inmates talk, as much as civilians talk, and if you say anything around an inmate, them people in that prison and all prisons as far as I know, we're worse than women. Anything you say, you better expect everybody else have all heard it, as soon as it leaves your lips.

[REDACTED] Its that old saying, there is no secrets in Corrections, right?

A. Yeah, there's no secrets in Corrections.

[REDACTED] When do you first meet JOYCE?

A. When she came to the shop to work in Tailor 1, I think that was the first time I actually remember.

[REDACTED] When?

A. When she came to my shop, at Tailor 1, to work. After the other civilian left.

[REDACTED] What was it like working with her, how was she?

A. She was alright. She had no idea what the hell she was doing, most of the time. But the people in administration here, the industry administration knew that, but they didn't care because STREETER, BRAD STREETER and almost like it doesn't matter, you got SWEAT in there, SWEAT knows what he's doing, if you don't know something, you have any kind of question, just go ask SWEAT.

[REDACTED] How long had she been there, or you been there before she came?

A. To the shop? At least ten years.

[REDACTED] Oh really?

A. Yeah. I mean even after, I went to Tailor 8, people will call Tailor 8 and ask them to ask me questions about stuff they didn't know, material and stuff. Because I remember the stuff, I retain it, once I do it, I do it, I don't have to do it again.

[REDACTED] Were you doing something different in Tailor 8?

A. I was just sewing, making coats, collars on jumpers.

[REDACTED] What about in 1, what did you get out of 1, what had you been doing in 1?

A. We were making pants most of the time. But they would send specialty projects...

[REDACTED] Did you make pants, CO pants?

A. I wasn't allowed to wear them though. NAUDIBLE so we're not allowed to INAUDIBLE. In kind of blues, or greys or orange.

■ Okay. Same thing with the jackets?

A. Right. Not allowed INAUDIBLE them.

■ So how is she when she first gets there, is she?

A. She's alright. She's very, she never really did her job the way she should. And she should be saying stuff to people, about work, getting into work. She wasn't really much for the shop supervisor, she just didn't, she didn't have that skill set.

■ Was the person who was there before her, better?

A. Oh yeah. I don't remember the ladies name. Real sweetheart, real nice lady. She's quiet, but you're going to work. You're not going to bullshit, you're going to work. She's going to tell you if you're bullshitting, but she treats you fair, and she's really nice.

■ So JOYCE, was she lax right from the beginning, or?

A. Yeah right from the beginning she was very lax. She didn't need to be, she didn't need to be hard on anybody, you know because the shop pretty much ran itself. You know everybody knew what they were doing, everybody was friends, you know to a point. Well, I really wouldn't call them a friend. We all had the same goal, the same mindset because we'd all been around each other for so long. So you have a group of guys that are all together, all the time, and somebody else comes in, their only choice is to either leave or you fall in with group, you do the same thing they're doing. So that most people INAUDIBLE and I sit down and teach them what they needed to know and everything and the first day or two would be rough because they hate working. Once they get it, they started doing it and then it's like they've been doing it forever.

■ Their motivation similar to what you described before, you know the bonus, the money?

A. The bonus. The money.

■ A decent job?

A. Not pissing off the guy behind them.

■ Not pissing off the other inmate behind him?

A. Right, because as long as they're under the understanding that everybody around you wants that bonus. Everybody around you wants that work, so if you're slacking, and you're not doing what you're supposed to do, people around you will be pissed, and nobody wants to be the outcast guy, not doing anything and have everybody around him pissed off. Because you never really know what somebody is going to do for that.

■ What about MATT?

A. He worked.

■ He worked?

A. He worked, yeah.

- At what point does she start showing an interest in you and MATT?
- A. Uhm, I think she kind of showed an interest in me, kind of right off, but I think in the beginning most of that was just because I was kind of running the shop, so she was always looking to me for guidance on what she's supposed to do, and what needs to be done. And I can't tell you, I can't tell her what this guy is not doing. I told her I said the only thing I can do is I can show 'em. If you see somebody that's not doing what they're supposed to do, you're going to have to say something to them. I said I can't say nothing to them, and I'm not going to tell you that they're not doing their job, because then I'm rat. If I'm rat, I'm not going to get fucking stabbed for a job. So, just over time, it developed where for whatever reason, she depended more and more on me and it was easier for her to just do that, than actually do her job.
- How long did that, what period of time did that take place? You know, where that relationship changed from her asking you questions to her really becoming dependent on you to run the shop?
- A. Well, it was right off the bat she was, for the most part, dependent on me running shop.
- What period of time was that between when she got there and the escape?
- A. Oh it had been a while.
- Like a year?
- A. Yeah.
- I don't have any records.
- A. I'm not good with the time frame, because in prison, a lot of the times just kind of runs together. Yeah had to be at least a year, at least.
- So she was the type of person that would just bring in some of her lunch and share it with others, or was it upon request, you know could you bring in more, stuff like that, or?
- A. Yeah, it was just in the beginning like she wasn't going to eat something, she'd be like ahh you want this, you know you want that; I'm gonna throw this out, you want it, sure I'll take it. You know, fucking only reason I'm working for the most part is to buy food anyway so I don't have to go to mess hall. So when a civilian offers you food, say they're going to throw it away, absolutely I'll take that no problem. It was "oh I got a new recipe, you want to try it", I'm making this or I'm making that or whatever. Okay sure, why not. I didn't turn food down, I mean.
- I remember you said that in the last interview about the paintings, you know that was all about the food.
- A. Yeah.
- That's a big deal.
- A. Yeah, it was a big deal, absolutely. And you know, I'm a very sympathetic person, she went through a lot of shit with ■.

- As close a sort of thing that she would talk to you about?
- A. Right, and I would try to get away from her because she's, she just talked too much. And I'm uncomfortable. She made me uncomfortable, ya know.
- In what way?
- A. Well just because sometimes it would be, the conversation seemed like it was a little too personal, you know. I, even though ■■■■■■■■■■, I don't mind talking to you about that, and you know just trying to be comforting a little bit if I can, you know to a point. And she would just go, every time you try to walk past her desk or something, she'd call me up and start a conversation with you about really nothing, so I'd be trying to get away from the desk, she just wouldn't let me leave.
- INAUDIBLE. But like what sort of issues would she talk to you about?
- A. Just different things.
- Like her kids? Her marriage?
- A. Yeah, yeah, I think part INAUDIBLE her son is in the Air, so I got a lot of respect for guys in the military. And you know she brought his jacket in and stuff, and needed some stuff sewn on it. I said listen I'd be more than happy to do that for you. Sew the new patches on it, or, so I sewed them on for her. I said listen if you have any more, you know, that need to be sewn on, please I'd be more than happy to. Because it's the least I can do for somebody who's military doing the right thing, what needs to be done. I think that really got to her too, because she's got a lot of, a lot of love for her kid, and other things about her son INAUDIBLE, so I think that really got her INAUDIBLE. Because she tried to give me stuff for doing that. She's like ohh let me give you this, what do you want.
- Like food?
- A. Yeah, she was just like what do you want, INAUDIBLE no I don't want nothing for it, I'm just honored that you allowed me to do it. You know and I really was, you know that she let me do that for him. Just different things.
- Did she try to hide doing that, did she just walk in with the clothes, or in a bag, or is that something that really INAUDIBLE.
- A. No, I had CO's bring in their work bags for me to fix. I've made cases for skis. For skiing ski's, I've made cases for CO's. I made a change purse thing for VICKI. VICKI would bring stupid shit too, which is crazy because she's flippant, she brought me a thing because she was having a yard sale and she wanted an inside/outside pouch for money, for bills, for change, so I made her one, one of those. I fixed a ton of different things for her, civilians, for CO's, jackets and all types of things. People wanted their jackets adjusted, their snaps put in their belt, they broke their belt or something. I said bring the belt in, I put snaps in it, using the machines and stuff.
- And what was their payment for you, for doing that?

A. No, I would just tell them I want nothing.

■ Okay.

A. Because now I'm in their favor. Because now the next time you see me, you're not going to bother with me; "oh okay, hey SWEAT, how ya doing?" "Not bad, alright." It puts me in a better light with them, so that if something does happen, I get in a fight or something and they show up, I'm not going to get my ass kicked for being in a fight, because everybody knows that happens sometimes. You know, so. INAUDIBLE.

■ At what point do you or MATT start asking for INAUDIBLE.

A. That was after I left.

■ After you left?

A. INAUDIBLE.

■ That was when you got fired?

A. Yep.

■ So, you get fired, you're taken out of the block? Or you're maintained on the block?

A. Maintained.

■ You got moved, you were in what cell at that point?

A. They moved me, they moved me down to 4-2 cell. INAUDIBLE 4-2 cell and the flat's in front of the damn sports t.v.

■ Still on A Block?

A. Still on A Block.

■ But you're out of Tailor 1?

A. I didn't lose the Tailor shop for the ticket. What I ended up getting was 30 days over my head across the board in 90 INAUDIBLE. Because I didn't get a ticket and the lieutenant INAUDIBLE. He was told you have to give him 30 days. But they didn't say what kind of 30 days. So he did the best he could and gave everything he had INAUDIBLE. So then I ended up going to, I ended up going to the general library. They moved me from 4-2 cell, to 220, I'll say 229. And I moved to 229 after me and MATT started having conversations about, about escaping. Oh yeah, he brought it out of nowhere, out of left field. Oh yeah, she wants you back. I said dude they're not going to let me come back here. They're not, because I knew why they fired me, because VICKI went and lied. It wasn't for the ticket, it was because that VICKI went and said that I was having a relationship with Ms. MITCHELL, and I was going to Tailor 9 and having sex with Ms. MITCHELL because this piece of shit rapo, child molester that's on his second or third bid had threatened him in the shop with a screwdriver, because it needed to be done. It wasn't to stab him or anything. He was going around telling everybody oh, when the new black dudes would come in,

"yeah I'd watch that dude, you gotta watch that dude, that dude's a, he's the head of the arians" and all types of stupid shit.

■ He would say that stuff about you.

A. He's really creating something that could severely be a problem for me, because you tell the wrong person that and now they're going to track, oh he's head of the arians, huh? Now you're creating just a real risk for me. So I went right to him, I told him, I said "listen mother-fucker, if I hear you say that shit again, I will stab the shit out of you. This aint a fucking game, I'm not the head of the arian, and I know what the fuck you're here for, you're a fucking child molester and you've been here for years and getting away with that shit." And I blew it up in front of everybody and he just shut down and kept his mouth shut. What he ended up doing was, he wrote Administration about ■ INAUDIBLE telling them oh, and because he didn't like Ms. MITCHELL either because he couldn't get a better job, because he's a child molester, you're a piece of shit and you're running around shop starting stuff, so I'm going to do everything I can so you don't get the job. So he wrote Ms. MITCHELL, he didn't actually write my name in the slip, he didn't put my name in it. He said that she kept taking the same person to Tailor 9 two or three times a week, for only five minutes at a time, and come back they would bring nothing back. VICKI used that ...

■ Was that all bullshit?

A. It was all bullshit.

■ Okay it wasn't you, but was it anybody else?

A. No, no. I was going to Tailor 9. Ms. MITCHELL would go over there with me, nine times out of ten, if the door got open, the CO's would open it, he would stand there while I went in to grab a part to fix a machine, but instead of Administration doing what they're supposed to do, investigating it like it ended up happening towards the end, or asking their own CO about it, ...

■ What CO is that?

A. Officer TROMBLEY and Officer ■. They both wouldn't tell you, they never will, nobody ever went in there by themselves with her. When she opened, if she opened the door, she would stand in the doorway and I would run over, grab what I need and come right back. And nowhere near five minutes.

■ Right.

A. And ..

■ Because it was run in a pretty secure way, is that what ...

A. Yeah, and its right there, it's not like you're going through doors and hallways. And VICKI used that as "oh I know who they're talking about", "that SWEAT, they're talking about SWEAT. SWEAT's going over there with VICKI and they're having, and she's having an affair with SWEAT."

■ You mean with JOYCE?

- A. Yeah, yeah, MITCHELL. So that's what VICKI ran with. That's how I lost my job.
- How did that work? Like, I know you don't know about all, how or why you lost your job.
- A. It was crazy. It was left field. I'm in there, I'm working. We just took break, the deputy superintendent came in, the captain came in, they were up at the desk.
- Who is that? Deputy Superintendent?
- A. ■■■■■, or I'm not really sure what his name is. He was a new Deputy Superintendent of the facility. And Captain ■■■■■, and who's your instructor in here, so they told him oh that's SWEAT. SWEAT's the instructor.
- Now that's which CO, do you remember?
- A. I can't remember which CO was on that day.
- I mean it doesn't matter.
- A. If I do remember that ■■■■■ was the one that took me back. He didn't even know what I was going back for. They told him he's done, he's going back, he's out of here, he's not going to be coming back. And everybody was like what the hell are you talking about, why are you taking SWEAT? What are you doing, what did he do wrong? You know, even ■■■■■ didn't know, because I asked ■■■■■ when he was taking me back, he was like "SWEAT, I'm going to give you a few minutes to grab your shit, you're going back". So am I in draft or something, what the hell am I going back for? He says I have no idea, he says all I know is he told me you're going back. So alright, while we're walking I'm asking him, he says honestly I have no idea, he says I will find out though because I want to know myself. I'm like alright. It ended up being a day later that I even found out, that I was even keep lock. When I went back I was on keep lock, which is locking me in my cell. So there was no...
- Which at that time was what cell number?
- A. 623.
- Oh okay.
- A. Yeah, and he just locked me in and said I don't know why you're in. Even the CO walked by that...
- This was around September of 2014?
- A. Right, yeah. And even the block CO, INAUDIBLE, none of them had any idea whatsoever why, until the next day and they're like oh you're keep locked. And INAUDIBLE I said how am I keep locked? He says I don't know, all I know is we were told you're keep locked and I've gotta give you a feed-up tray. I'm like alright, if you find out for me I'd appreciate it. And then next time the CO came around he told me, he said, I guess you got a ticket, you said something to somebody you weren't supposed to or something. What ended up happening was, the dep and captain told SCOTT SCHOLIS write him a ticket for what he said. And SCOTT SCHOLIS changed the wording and the ticket and even the lieutenant was like how the hell, because he told another officer, he says how am I supposed to find this guy guilty because his charge is in this

statement itself he's not really even guilty of the charges. When I went down there, I didn't argue with him. I said "listen I understand, I know what's going on. I'm just going to plead guilty." I said "I know I'm not going to win it, I'm not going to beat it." He goes well you know you can appeal it. I said it's not going to do me any good to appeal it. I said because of where it came from. I said nobody is safe from the superintendent of industry, I know it's from up front. Because VICKI went up front and did that.

■ Up front, to meaning from SCHOLL?

A. To yeah to SCHOLL and SCHOLL went to, had a conversation with ■ and the dep or whatever. And even he told somebody...

■ Who?

A. SCHOLL told somebody he said yeah well he said I had to do what my other half wanted me to do because I don't want to make no waves for her.

■ So that was pretty upsetting to you?

A. I was devastated. You know I lost my cell, I lost my money.

■ How is that connected to losing your cell, I'm sure you know this?

A. Because whenever you get a ticket, or if you change your program, you lose your cell. They move you. Each company like in A Block...

■ Certain things.

A. Right. You know the company I was on is called the industry company, so now I lose the company and it was a struggle to even save the block. You know and the money was a big thing, because that was my food.

■ Like making that kind of money was a better job, better paying?

A. And plus, you know I gave a lot of years of change, you know my life to doing the same thing. Intentionally doing everything I can to stay out of trouble. Do the right thing and here you know I'm getting screwed over for something I didn't even do, and nobody even cared. Nobody looked at it, nobody batted an eye at it. They were like oh okay that's what he's doing, good he's fired. What the hell is that, that's not right. And nobody even would have said anything had I not gotten back into industry and VICKI started running her mouth again. As soon as I got back, she ran around to other civilians.

■ So how did that happen? That you got back into industry? You went, you got fired from the tailor shop.

A. Fired from the tailor shop.

■ You went to the cell that was in front of the sport's t.v.

A. Oh man that was horrible.

■ How did you get out from under that?

- A. Because they changed, once I got a program.
- Oh okay.
- A. Because I was in the mess hall. It was the mess hall slash you know INAUDIBLE south.
- So that's for the library, were you at?
- A. No 4-2 cell was just whatever cell, mostly INAUDIBLE because it's in the front of the block, where they can get them out in the morning and don't make a lot of noise on the block. So once I got the job in general library, they moved me to 229 up on the second floor in the back.
- That was a better situation?
- A. Yeah, yeah, absolutely. But I don't watch sports, so to put me in front of a sports t.v. everybody sitting there INAUDIBLE. It's a horrible.
- What did you used to do mostly, just to get off subject for a minute, like when you were not yet planning an escape and you were, you know you were in your cell, painting, how did you pass the time?
- A. Well, most of the time if I wasn't working, I'd go to the yard during the week, during my rec periods, I'd lift weights and work out and I'd come inside and I'd paint, you know I'd cook and eat. On the weekends, if it was nice out, we'd go outside and cook outside. On the summertime I'd do my gardening and stuff like that. You know I'm just, relaxing stuff, away from other people or you know kind of by myself I can do things to keep my mind you know, health INAUDIBLE, the madness of going downstairs, like everybody else.
- Would you say that MATT was like the closest friend in there?
- A. Pretty close.
- Yeah?
- A. Yeah, pretty close.
- At what point, so you're in the library. At what point, or who approaches you to get back into the shop?
- A. That was me, I wanted to get back.
- You did?
- A. Needed the money.
- And who did you ask to get you back in the job?
- A. I asked several different CO's about getting back in, to check in to see if it was okay. Because I didn't want to make any waves at trying to get back in, pissin people off. Always thinking I can just come back to industry you know, because they're real petty about that.
- Who is? The people that run the industry?

- A. Yeah the people that run the industry, the people in Administration. When they do something, they gotta INAUDIBLE, and because I knew they were so bent on you losing your job and they wanted me to make 30 days, and I don't think it was 30 days over my head, I think 30 days in INAUDIBLE in keep lock. I didn't want to make the lieutenant look like an asshole after he left me in A Block.
- Who was that lieutenant?
- A. I'm not really sure.
- It was INAUDIBLE
- A. Yeah, INAUDIBLE lieutenant. So I didn't want to make him look bad, because I know he kind of went out of his way a little bit for me. PALMER actually ended up, I asked PALMER, I said can you talk to SCOTT SCHOLIS and see if it's alright to go back and talk with lieutenant to see if it's alright to come back. And he went and talked to lieutenant because I knew he was friends with him, you know, being that he's...
- PALMER or SCHOLIS?
- A. PALMER, he's got enough time there, so he knows everybody.
- PALMER?
- A. Right. So he says well I'll talk to him and I'll see what I can do with SCOTT. I said alright.
- What was your relationship like with PALMER at that time. I know you said you liked him, respected him.
- A. Yeah it was fairly decent. I mean, I didn't talk to him too much you know because, but I would do paintings for him and stuff. I'd do paintings and a lot of times I didn't want to INAUDIBLE ■ what do you think of that? Look good? Yeah yeah yeah. If I needed like a brush or something, I'd ask him, I'd say I'll tell you what, I'll give you that if you get me you know a filbert, a paint brush. No but you can have the filbert paint brush anyway. It's easier to do that way and it's cheaper for me. And I'm still doing what I want to do, is paint. He ended up talking to SCOTT SCHOLIS too. SCOTT SCHOLIS did this whole little dramatic thing where he had PALMER bring me over to the industry building and we sat in his office and he's like "oh you want to come back to industry and ...
- Sort of like an interview, kind of?
- A. Yeah, just being an ass. Being arrogant.
- He's like oh it won't be Tailor 1, you know probably won't be Tailor 1. I said I don't really care which shop, I just want back in industry.
- When was this in relation to INAUDIBLE trying to get a pretty decent time line?
- A. It was just. That's probably two weeks before I got back into industry, when I had the conversation with SCOTT.

■ Okay. So how long were you out?

A. I would say almost four months.

■ Okay. So you went out in September.

A. Yep.

■ And then you went to the library fairly quickly.

A. Yeah.

■ Did you not like the library, I mean it was a different amount of money?

A. I mean it was okay, if it paid more money it wouldn't have been too bad. But it was really boring.

■ Yeah.

A. Because they all had their own club. In the beginning was alright because they had, whoever the hell was in there before had it all screwed up. So me and the guys straightened the whole thing out.

■ Who was that? Who was the other guy, the inmate?

A. ■.

■ Okay.

A. There was another kid too. We went through the computer, reorganized the computer, reorganized the shelving where all the books were and stuff. So that everybody, you could find and read about all the books and things like that to straighten them out.

■ So now we're looking at January. You get back into industry, as the same, are you treated a little different or?

A. No. See, ■ is great.

■ She's in Tailor 8?

A. She's in Tailor 8 too. I worked for ■ many times so she knows, you know, she knows I got the raw end of the deal. She told me right off the bat, she goes I know...

■ What's her first name?

A. ■?

■ Yeah. You might not know that. I'm just trying to remember all the things I've read over the past few months. ■?

A. No, Begins with an "I". I believe it begins with an ■. So she says I know you got the raw end of the deal, I know that was bullshit. She goes I went through something similar, where they accused me of something with an inmate before and then they moved me all around. And she said I had nothing to do with it, she says, so I know what you're going through, you know. She

goes I'm going to do my best to get raises as fast as I can, because I know you know what you're doing.

■ What's that based on? Her getting you raises, to come back into industry?

A. Time frames. Well within certain amount of time, raises.

■ If you're meeting your quota?

A. As long as the supervisor, the shop supervisor says it's okay for you to get a raise, it's gotta be approved by the office anyway. But they always approved whatever raise she wanted to get me. She gave me a double raise right off, as soon as she could.

■ Starting in January?

A. The first fifty, I don't even think it was 56 days. They let her give me a double raise, INAUDIBLE. For me, it was easy because she, you know she's easy to work for; I knew the guys in the shop anyway, already. They knew what I was capable of too.

■ You knew them how? Just been around the Tailor Shop so long? People got moved around then?

A. Yeah, been in prison, in the prison for so long. The guys get moved around a lot from shop to shop, they get tickets and stuff. So I had a lot of guys down there that worked for me before too. And so it was, it wasn't bad, it wasn't uncomfortable or anything like that. I knew the shop instructor in there really well, and he was happy to have me.

■ Who was that?

A. They call him ■. I'm not really sure what his name was.

■ They call him what?

A. They call him ■ INAUDIBLE. He's a good dude.

■ ■?

A. ■. And he was happy to have me because now he had somebody who could do the same thing he could do, and he had somebody he could lean on if he needed help or something.

■ How did that work in conjunction with you going to what cell? Like around that same time period, when did you go...

A. Right, so once I got back in Industry, now I can no longer be in Two Company. Because Two Company is not Industry Company. So there's an open cell back on Six Company, 616, they moved me up to 616. When they moved me, I said what's the chances of me moving back in my old cell?

■ Who did you say that to?

A. One of the CO's, I'm not sure which one.

(Excuse me sir, would you like your lunch, do you want to wait or you want to talk to him, eat while he talks?)

■ You probably want to eat, right?

A. Yeah.

■ Why don't we take a break and let you eat.

A. Okay.

BREAK

| ■ Just a formality, I read you your rights before, they're still intact. Do you have questions about that?

A. No.

| ■ You were starting to, you were focused on the area around September when you got, when you lost your job in the tailor shop. You got back into Tailor 8, you got into Tailor 8 and then you were changing your cell from, what was the number?

A. 16 into 626.

| ■ Okay. Just tell me about that.

A. I asked one of the officers when I was moving, I'm not sure of the officer. I asked them if there was any chance I could get back my old cell.

| ■ Which is what number? 23?

A. Yeah, 23. He says I have no problem with that, but as long as the other guy wants to switch, he says but it won't be this weekend. I said alright, no problem. So myself and MATT ended up talking to the other guy about switching. We ended up having to pay him to switch.

| ■ The other guy, that was in the other cell?

A. Yeah.

| ■ Do you remember who that was? I know it, but I just can't remember his name.

A. I don't remember his name.

■ Pay? Cigarettes?

A. I gave him, he makes these, takes porn magazine and makes some really big thick ones. I gave him a couple of those, and I gave him like 20 packs of TOP.

■ And that was to get from 16 ...

A. 16 back into 2-3.

■ Any reason why you wanted to get back into 23?

A. I would be next to MATT.

■ I know before you said he was like you know one of your best friends. What was the INAUDIBLE?

A. Well because we'd cook together and we'd paint. So there was a lot of times where he'll stay up late at night.

■ Who? MATT?

A. To paint. He'll paint at nighttime, when everybody's sleeping. That's when he preferred to paint. And I would paint during the day. So what would end up happening a lot of times is, I would cook during the day, if he was staying up at night, so he'd have something to eat. And he'd cook you know, when we came back, so I'd have something to eat while I was painting.

■ Did you eat on the cell, like every day?

A. Yeah, we ate every day. We cook every day.

■ I mean you wouldn't ...

A. Never go to the mess hall.

■ Why was that?

A. I can't eat the food.

■ I mean, except for the food.

■ Did you go to the mess hall at all while you were in the shops too, for lunch?

A. INAUDIBLE.

■ He never stayed back at all?

A. No you can't. That's mandatory that you go, breakfast and lunch.

■ So you want to get back up to cell 23?

A. Right.

■ Any reason you guys wanted to be in those particular cells? Was there an integrity issue with them or anything?

A. No, they're all the same. All the cells are the same. There is no difference or anything.

■ Was the discussion about the escape had before you moved back to 23?

A. Yes.

■ Tell me about that.

A. He just said you know, he says I figured that you could get some tools, whatever we needed to get out. Because she was really placating getting rid of her husband. Her whole thing was calling him the glitch.

■ When did that start?

A. Almost immediately.

■ Immediately from?

A. Right from the beginning.

■ Beginning when you first knew her?

A. No, no, no. After I got fired.

■ Oh okay.

A. And I was trying to come back. Whatever conversations that he was having with her, because he would tell me that he was having ...

■ MATT?

A. ...all day long he's having these crazy conversations with her about stuff and ...

■ About what?

A. ...I'd tell him I didn't want to hear it. I said that's...

■ Like what?

A. Just about her problems with her husband.

■ Oh okay.

A. And stuff like that. I'd tell him you know I don't want to hear that, that's your problem. I'll take care of the other stuff, you deal with that. I don't want to.

■ So if you got moved out of the Tailor Shop in September, when did you and MATT start talking about the escape?

A. Probably in January.

■ It was January when you got moved back onto, moved back up to...

A. Just before I got moved back.

■ Moved back to 8? Or moved back to 23?

A. Just before I got moved back to 23.

■ Okay.

■ So early January or late January?

A. Had to be real early.

■ Real early, okay.

A. Early January, end of December I think was the first time we had any kind of conversation about that.

■ Had MATT been working on MITCHELL before that with respect to tools?

A. Not that I'm aware of.

■ And I know some of these questions we'll ask you, I know you don't know like the back side of it. You only know what you know. So tell me how it came up when you started talking about getting out?

A. We just, just a plain conversation. He's like you know I can get the tools, she's fucking up. She'll bring us whatever we want, just tell me what you need and I'll get her to bring it in and.

■ MATT was saying this?

A. Yeah.

■ Okay.

A. I was like alright.

■ Before I forget this because it's important; I want to back up on a couple things. Like when did she start bringing in tools?

A. It was January.

■ January. What was the tools that she brought in, if we could sort of walk through those?

A. The first time she brought tools in was six hacksaw blades.

■ And that was in January?

A. That was in January. No that wasn't the first tools. The first tools were these little, little star security bits, for the little security screws. She brought those in first.

■ Your bit to get those out?

A. Yeah. And then there's no real way to really keep a hold of them, put the pressure on them, so she ended up bringing longer ones, with little curl arms on them. I'm sure you guys got them, I left them in the wall.

■ In the cell?

A. No in the bag by the pipe.

■ Okay.

A. And then after that was six hacksaw blades.

■ Which was about when?

A. That was January.

■ So the screw, what did you call the bit? The star bit.

A. Right. The star bits. That was all like within probably a week or two of each other.

■ And that was within about a week or so of MATT first talking to you about the escape?

A. Yes.

■ Aside from him saying she'll do anything basically to bring us stuff.

A. Yeah.

■ Obviously she was clued in at that point, right?

A. Oh, yeah, yeah.

■ And MATT said he'd been talking to her before January about the escape?

A. Yeah, he was talking to her before...I don't think he was talking to her about escaping. I don't know what kind of conversations they were having, but a lot of it I think was about her husband. The two of them were having conversations about that.

■ Such as?

A. About getting rid of him.

■ Getting rid of him as in killing him?

A. Yeah.

■ Okay.

A. Because she had made other comments, openly in the shop to other individuals, from what MATT was telling me, of, "yeah my husband is an asshole, he's worth more to me dead than he is alive." You know just stupid stuff. The hacksaw blades, that was six hacksaw blades.

■ And those are hacksaw blades like what sort of length?

A. They were about twelve inch.

■ Any sort of durability?

A. They're flexible carbon steel blades. You know, fairly standard hacksaw blades.

Q. Did they all come at once?

A. The six of them, yes.

■ How did they get in again?

A. She brought them in, I'm not exactly sure how he got them back. That was his job to you know bring everything back, because I didn't have any idea what it was like going back and forth
INAUDIBLE.

■ Did he tell you how he was getting them back and forth?

A. Not really. I told him I didn't really care, because you know.

■ So what would he do and how would he transfer those back and forth?

A. Well I was his neighbor so I mean.

■ Just reach through?

A. Yeah, just hand them over. Roll them up in a piece of paper or something. Like "oh check this drawing out" you know.

■ At that point, did MITCHELL know you would be using them to cut out of the cells, or were you telling her that they were for artwork?

A. Yeah, she knew from the get-go.

■ Yeah?

A. Yeah.

■ When did you first have a conversation with her?

A. I actually never had a conversation with her. What ended up happening was, she got some kind of star lust thing in her mind where she was like in love with me and stuff, so she was writing me notes. So I would placate her and write her little stupid notes back.

■ When was this?

A. Close to the beginning.

■ January?

A. Yeah.

■ Okay.

A. And so he brought the blades back and that was the first thing that we used.

■ Used to do what?

A. To cut the hole in the back of the wall.

■ Okay.

A. And then never asked for anything else until we needed it.

■ What was the next thing you needed?

A. The next thing we needed was the chisels, the punch and the concrete drill bits.

■ And that was after you already gotten, broken through the cells.

A. That was after I got through the cell, that was after going through the brick wall INAUDIBLE.

■ At the pipe.

A. At the pipe.

■ In the wall?

A. But the steam pipe were still on.

■ But that was, we're talking about the exterior wall and the pipe going out of the prison?

A. Right.

■ The INAUDIBLE.

A. The inside of the wall there.

■ About when was that?

A. Had been sometime in May.

■ Okay, how long, I think you told us before, it was like, it took you about three weeks to cut through the back of your cell?

A. Yeah.

■ It took MATT a couple weeks longer?

A. Took a couple weeks longer for him.

■ How many blades did it take?

A. It took like one.

■ Oh, it didn't ...

A. No.

■ The blades didn't get eaten up by cutting through?

A. No, the worse part about, the blades actually a lot of times, the blades will last for a long time. The reason why people replace the blades is because they break them, they end up snapping them. The blades themselves will last for a while. But they'll dull out a little bit and then you just move, break a piece off and move the blade down a little bit.

■ What were you using to hold it? I know you answered this before.

A. We used cloth, a piece of cloth wrapped around the end and then put rubber bands around the cloth, so you could hold onto it for a handle.

■ Just a little bit at a time?

A. Yeah, just a little bit at a time.

■ Did it make a lot of noise?

A. A little bit. But you know, we'd always do it when the neighbors weren't there. And when they were doing rec downstairs.

■ So you'd stay back from rec?

- A. Yeah. And nobody questioned it. He's like "oh you're not coming down?" "No, no I got a lot of painting and stuff I gotta do, so". And everybody figured like oh they're up there painting like they always are.
- Q. During the day?
- A. Yeah. The cell, everything in the cell was done during the day. Was the only time it was loud.
- During afternoon rec though, right? What time is that at?
- A. That's usually around between 630 and usually we'd end up having to stop about 8 o'clock because that's when some people would come back upstairs.
- That was strictly when you did it? That time?
- A. INAUDIBLE.
- And you two guys would both be doing it at the same time?
- A. No, he'd do it for about fifteen, twenty minutes, and then he would stop and I would do it for fifteen, twenty and we'd watch for each other.
- Okay. And did anybody ever complain about it, notice noise?
- A. No, his neighbor heard it once. He didn't know what it was, because it's not something that's real distinctive. You know, so he blew it off, "oh I was up, I was cutting a piece of canvas".
- For his painting?
- A. Right. He's cutting canvas INAUDIBLE.
- What did the neighbor say?
- A. He went for that.
- No what did he say initially, like what the hell are you doing?
- A. He says what the hell are you doing over there, he says, thought you were cutting something up. He says "Yeah yeah, I was cutting up one of my canvasses, cutting it down".
- What did you call MATT?
- A. "HACKSAW".
- Is that what his, I mean that's what it was, right, I mean the irony of that is pretty apparent. That was his nickname in prison?
- A. Yeah.
- That had to do with his prior crime?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. So what would you call him?

A. "HACKSAW".

■ "HACKSAW". So one blade each, or was it one blade broken that you used the half of, he used one half, you used the other half?

A. No, no. What we did was we split the blades so we each had three blades.

■ Three full blades, 12 inch blades.

A. Three full blades. We each snapped a blade in half and we'd use them. The half blades were just so that we could get into the wall, to cut in. And once we cut in the wall, we used full blade to cut.

■ Pretty much in the same manner with the handle and stuff?

A. With the handles, right.

■ Was there ever an officer on the block during the rec time?

A. Sure, there's officers who do rounds. Pretty much every one of them would. You'd just have to, because they're far in the back and they come around from the back side you could hear the back gate so you know...

■ You don't mean back behind the cell, but you mean back on the other side of the block?

A. On the other side, because you can walk around the back of the block. So you know, you tap on the wall real quick and then jump up, lay in bed or, put his headphones on like he's watching t.v. or something.

■ Yeah, what sort of like subterfuge did you have when an officer might walk by? Did you have like paintings set up?

A. Yeah sometimes. Always try to do different various things so it didn't always look the same, because that would be kind of obvious, so sometimes you just set paintings up, sometimes you'd set it on a program so you could watch t.v. or sometimes you'd just act like you're taking a nap.

■ And then what, they'd pass by?

A. He'd pass by you, wait a few minutes, listen to see if they're doing a round downstairs, because a lot of times you can hear the keys, or hear other inmates calling to him for something. And we'd wait till they're out of earshot and then get back to work.

■ Did they do staggered rounds or just the same time?

A. No a lot of times, certain ones were fairly consistent but there are some that you never knew when they were coming. ■

■ So he was doing the job?

A. Yeah, he was on it. He was seriously on it.

■ Who was that? Do you remember?

A. No, I can't even, I don't remember his name. He was a little short guy. He'd about sneak up right on before we knew.

■ Were you guys like nervous when you were doing this? Were you like heart in your throat kind of thing or was it like, eh this is...

A. No not really. I mean I don't know how he felt, I really wasn't.

■ Yeah.

A. I mean I knew as long as I was doing what I needed to do in order to do it, that I'd be alright. We sat right on the gate with a mirror the whole time. If he went 25-30 minutes, I wouldn't move, I would stand there looking down the company with a mirror the whole time. Just a little tip of the corner out, so that if a cop did come, he wouldn't even see the mirror.

■ Right.

■ So you get through the back of the cell. You get into the catwalk. You've been in the catwalk before?

A. Yeah, I've been back there.

■ And what were you back there for?

A. Turn the electricity back on, turn the power on.

■ And how did you get back there?

A. I've been let back there by CO's. Inmates go back there anyway, for the light, heat and power to turn the electricity on. On the weekends, there is nobody to turn power on, so for whatever reason, if your cell goes out on Friday night. You're screwed for the whole weekend. The guys know I know how to do electrical work and they know I can go back and turn the power on.

■ You say guys, you mean CO's?

A. The inmates, and CO's too. The CO's know too. So they'll come to me, "hey SWEAT, can you go down there and turn that back on, I say "yeah no problem, I have no problem with that".

■ So CO would let you in?

A. Yeah. And they'd watch you. There is no funny shit when I went back there to do that, when I was allowed back there.

■ When did you change INAUDIBLE, so you could boil water and all that stuff?

A. The CO went back there, I had just enough time to do it. He wasn't paying attention. It only took me a second.

■ So that wasn't anything that was authorized?

A. No, no that's INAUDIBLE to do that.

■ So when did you do that in relation to this, all that we've been talking about?

A. Oh this is way before. Most of the cells are hooked up anyway.

■ Hooked up to boil water?

A. To boil water and stuff.

■ Because why? People just done it over time?

A. You'd pay the light, heat and power inmates to do it. You know you give them a pack of cigarettes, you know, you'll have a work order put in, you tell them ahead of time, I need you to turn my power up and they're like, alright, give me a pack. You give them a pack and in the morning you go down and tell the CO, the power is out, or I'm having a plumbing issue and when they come, they know what cell you're in so what they'll do is while they're back there, they'll just hook your power up.

■ And you knew how to do that as well?

A. Yeah, it's easy.

■ How do you do it?

A. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

■ That just makes it heat at a higher rate?

A. [REDACTED]
[REDACTED].

■ Okay. How many times would you say you did that?

A. I did it a few.

■ For other people?

A. Yeah I did it for other people too.

■ So yourself and somebody else do that or did you do it for your?

A. I always did it for myself. I wouldn't pay somebody for something I could do myself.

■ Did you do it for MATT?

A. Yeah.

■ Okay, so you basically knew the lay of the catwalks then anyways.

A. Yeah, seen it.

■ You already seen it, you knew what was INAUDIBLE back there.

A. About that, they leave the end doors open, to the catwalks, as part of the ventilation system.

■ You mean just to keep the air condition flowing.

A. When you walk by you can walk right down the catwalk, you can see everything.

■ And you'd been back there before anyway?

A. Yeah, I'd been back there.

■ That first night that you get through the wall, do you go out that night, through your cell?

A. It was too early. By the time I had already gotten out.

■ When do you go out through the back of your cell first time?

A. The next day.

■ Next day. Now when you get down to the catwalk, did you replace that?

A. Know what I did, I took it off, I put it in a bin and put it underneath my bed, put a lid over it so if the CO looked in, he couldn't see it, and I took one of my paintings and I put it over the hole, there are a couple of magnets on the painting, so it would stick to the wall.

■ So it was just like a canvass, it's not attached to the frame or anything?

A. No, it was actually a complete. It's actually the same painting that was there when I left. A midnight park one.

■ And you did that every time you went out of it?

A. Every single time.

■ How did you get the magnets on, oh you did the magnets, how did you get the magnets on if you were behind the cell?

A. Tape the magnets onto the back of the painting and then put some tape for the finger hole on the painting so I could pick the painting up and set it in place.

■ So you come out that first night and you go down into the catwalk, where do you go?

A. Down.

■ Straight down?

A. Went all the way, I look down both ways, I walked all the way to the back because I figure that's probably going to be the most space to go down.

■ What were you thinking about then, like what were you thinking, just going on a recon mission, sort of thing?

A. Yeah pretty much. See what I could see, see which way would be the best way to go. Because nothing ended up being anything like either one of us expected it to be. You know INAUDIBLE

what was down there. I figured probably a bunch of gates, steel iron gates, you know just your every gate.

■ Just so you couldn't get through from...

A. Right, that you'd need a key for, ■
■
■

■ But you didn't end up needing that because it's all INAUDIBLE.

A. For the most part it was all open, other than the brick wall and having to climb through the pipe, after they had already bricked it in.

■ So when ■ was saying you went, you go down...

A. Climb down from the third floor.

■ What did you climb down on?

A. Right down in between the catwalk and the cell walls where the vents are.

■ Just like on all the crap that's there, like I mean I know I've been in there, so, there's just stuff hanging all over the place.

A. Yeah, just slide right down in between them and just floor by floor, and just go all the way to the bottom.

■ That was easy?

A. Yeah it was simple. I had been working on them for years, so it wasn't like it was INAUDIBLE.

■ Now MATT wasn't done getting through his ...

A. Right, he wasn't done getting through his. He only went down twice.

■ Were you talking, I'm this far, I'm this far?

A. Yeah, yeah.

■ How far was he when you got through?

A. He still had a whole 'nother line...

■ So he was like three-quarters?

A. Yeah. He finished a little quicker because at that time, hell I didn't have to work during the daytime, he could work the whole time.

■ And you could cook and watch?

A. Switching back and forth.

■. When you cut through the back of the cell, is it large piece of duct in the vent?

A. Yes.

Q. What became of that? Is that also under the vent?

A. Yeah, it's connected right to the vent.

Q. Connected. So somebody walking down the catwalk would see the back of your painting?

A. If they walked it at like, you know after 11:30 at night and went back there, yeah.

█. Because you would never go out after 11:30?

A. I would never go out until 11:30.

█ And you'd always be back by 4:00?

A. Always be back by 4:00.

█. This is a question I want to ask then, it's a little bit out of sequence but; how frequently, once you ...

A. Every night.

█ Every single night?

A. Every single night. I think there might have been two or three times that I didn't go because I didn't know the CO that was on and whether or not they'd walk or not.

█ And the reason for that was just scheduling?

A. Yeah, you know guys taking time off, whatever.

█ But there were a series then of CO's who you would have had to at least know they were likely not going to walk the block.

A. Yeah, I mean you could for the most part, if you got a CO walking at the 11:30 time, they usually do that to drop off call-out slips and things like that for the next day. If they're walking by, if the guy aint got a flashlight, he's not coming back. If the person when they're walking is only using a flashlight for their slip and they're not looking in your cell at all, they're not coming back because they're not interested. They know you're in there, they figure you're secure. And a couple of the CO's, we already knew weren't walking because we'd stay up at night prior to this, just painting, just for no reason and knew they didn't walk.

█ Just normal behavior.

A. Just normal behavior, nothing to do with INAUDIBLE or anything.

█ While you're back there climbing around and stuff, what are you using for light?

A. It's all lit up. They actually just put all brand new, all brand new bulbs back there; energy savers. It's kind of funny, because CO's actually stole a couple of them.

█. Do you have to use those glasses, way down into the tunnels, did you ever use them?

A. The only place it was dark, was when he had come up with a light from, I don't know if he got from Ms. MITCHELL or whatever, he had had a little, it was like a headlight thing and it didn't have a band on it, and he got another light INAUDIBLE but he left that in his cell, had like a necklace thing on it. What I'd do is I'd take my watch and I'd hang it on that, and when I'd get to the part between A Block and B Block as you're going underneath the bath house and the laundry its pitch black, I'd pick that up and I'd use that, because it was just a little tiny light. Just enough to see but not enough to be bright if there was somebody at the other end.

█. That was something you got from MATT?

A. Yeah.

█ Was it a led light?

A. Yeah L.E.D.

█. It wasn't the ones off the what they use on the sewing machines was it?

A. No this was something different.

█. Did you use anything out of the Tailor Shop?

A. Just the magnets.

█ The magnets to hold the painting up?

A. Yeah, and hold the lights too, I ended up taping to the wall, INAUDIBLE when I was cutting the wall on the inside, instead of fall on the floor, as they fell they'd stick to the magnet and all I'd have to do is clean the magnet off and take off the magnet, bring it into the toilet and flush it.

█ Were those shards falling forward?

A. Most of them went to the back, but you'd still have quite a few that would come inside the cell.

█ And as far as the ones in the back?

A. Didn't matter, you seen it, you wouldn't be able to see any of it.

█ So you get down, the first thing you run into is that wall?

A. The first thing I run into is the, there's a brick wall that had a sleeve in it, between E Block and C Block, it had pipes going through it. I eventually...

█ The pipe came through the area ...

A. ...brick walls.

█ But there was already like a hole there, right?

A. Right, there was already a hole there but a pipe...

█ From a bigger pipe at one time?

- A. Took one pipe out. The pipe actually that's low, the low pipe which is a water pipe was actually, I think the main pipe that was on the top the first time.
- Oh okay.
- A. And they had moved it down because you could see on the other side where they had knocked part of the wall out to put that in. So the first part to get through was on that. I had to get up on there, and crawl in there and there was...
- And you were able to get through there without doing anything? Without knocking any bricks out or anything?
- A. Yeah, I didn't have to knock any bricks out ...
- I mean it was a pretty big space but.
- A. ...it was 16 inches wide, 11 inches high.
- How did you know that?
- A. Measuring tape.
- Oh you did, okay.
- A. Because I had to make sure fatso could fit. No. There was a metal hanger...
- Let me just back up, so how did you know that he was going to be able to fit, like were you measuring?
- A. I came to him, I told him, I said there's a pretty tight tube, I said you know it's not long.
- You're talking about the steam pipe at that point?
- A. No, no, that's the pipe's you'd get on top of and crawl through. So what I did is I told him, I said take a couple pieces of cardboard, tape them together so that, see how thin you can get yourself down, slide through. He said he could make 16 by 11. He said it'd be tight and it was, because I had to pull him through every time because he'd get a little bit stuck in there, which is kind of funny because he's claustrophobic. And when I got up on top of the pipe the first time, there is a steel rod that comes down that actually holds onto the pipe that hangs it and I had to actually cut that and then bend it out of the way in order to go through because it was right in front of the pipe.
- Oh, it was blocking your way?
- A. Right. And then the sheet of steel that you guys seen down by the steam pipe where I cut that, that was actually the sleeve that was actually in that wall. I had to remove that in order to get back and forth through there easier, because it stuck out probably an extra foot, I'd say maybe a foot and a half, but it put you right into where a conduit pipe came up and crossed across so it was really difficult to get in and out of. So I ended up pulling that out too.
- How did you cut that? Or were you just were able to pull it out?

A. Yeah. You're able to pull it out, I shouldered the pipes, I put the shoulders on the pipes and stood up and then just kept working on the sleeve until it came out. I had him down there one time to help me with that too, at the very end before he went through the first time to go see everything. Plus I needed something to use as a block to cover the work that I was doing on the wall, so I figured I'd roll that out and flatten it a little bit and put it in the way. Because not too many people were going to go down in that hole. So that was the first obstacle, the second one was the brick wall.

■ How do you get through that?

A. I found a couple of, I found a thin long piece of steel and I cut the end to an angle to help me, kind of dig into the bricks above the steam pipes because the steam pipe, and there's moisture that leaked down in and it messed the wall with it, so it'd make it a little softer. I was able to pull some of the bricks out, about half way through the bricks on the left side of it, because I need to make it bigger so he could fit through. They weren't really coming out so I ended up trying to find a pry bars and stuff, and trying to pry bricks out and I was having a real hard time, until I found the maintenance people left a sledge hammer in a tool box, beside a tool box, they didn't leave it in there, they left the tool box, the steel tool box and the sledge hammer. I took the sledge hammer and I used that. Knocked the bricks out on the inside and then I had to crawl through.

■ Did you hit the bricks full on or were you using a piece of ...

A. No I hit them full on. I tried to use something, but it didn't work, it was making too much noise because you hear the metal clink.

■ But the sledge hammer was just kind of a thud, right?

A. Yeah. Because the pipes were banging anyway, the steam was on and you know the steam pressure, the pipes were really loud and banging, so I figured they're not going to freaking INAUDIBLE with a sledgehammer.

■ When you first INAUDIBLE, any recollection of the dates, you know anything that happened, I don't know, you know a birthday, a lock down, whatever?

A. Nothing.

■ So but you first probably got out sometime mid-February? Got out behind your cell through the hole after three weeks of cutting?

A. Yeah.

■ And then when you first went down in and the next night, when did you first reach the first obstacle, is that the first night or did it take you awhile to figure out where you were?

A. The first night I reached the, what I called the tube where the bar was in the way, that was the first night, and I didn't actually get it cut all the way off the first night. I got cut most of the way and then I ran out of time.

■ Were you using hacksaw blades?

- A. Yeah. I ran out of time so I ended up having to go back.
- You had a watch with you?
- A. Yeah, I kept it on the little light INAUDIBLE, I had the regular watch I'd wear during the day and then another watch I'd wear that didn't have a band on it or anything, kept it on the necklace with the light, so that I could just look down and see what time it was. And when I realized you know it was getting close I would head back.
- What was your mindset? INAUDIBLE, excited about it, nervous about it, you know being out of the cell that long?
- A. Well, you know I don't know, it felt good, because you kind of felt free. You know, you weren't caged up in the cell no more. Nobody knew where you were, I always left my ID in my cell you know when I left the cell, so I didn't feel like I was an inmate anymore. It gave me that little feel of freedom because whenever I left my cell, on normal basis, I always had my ID. And it was different for me you know after 14 years, or 13 whatever it's been. It was something new, it was doing something that I could actually use my mind for, that I could apply myself to. So I really didn't think much about anything and there really wasn't a lot of time where you could sit and ponder stuff, it was you know, go to work, come back, sleep, eat, go downstairs and work, come back eat, sleep.
- You don't seem like a guy who ponders much, all that much anyway.
- A. No, not really.
- I mean you make your decision, go with it.
- A. Yeah. Yeah that was the INAUDIBLE.
- INAUDIBLE area.
- A. Right, and then looking for a way out. My first goal wasn't actually the steam pipe. I was actually looking for, I figured we would have found a sewer thing. And when you get right through that tube, there's a big steel plate on the ground right underneath that and at first I didn't know what it was for. I was looking I said oh maybe that's a sewer so I actually ended up cutting the bolts off that and popping that up and it's just a concrete pad underneath. I think what it was, was like an old piece of machinery that they set on a steel plate in case it like leaked oil or something, like from forever ago. So then I went exploring, I wanted to see what the options were, I seen the brick wall, where the steam pipes went.
- And that was where in relation to the INAUDIBLE facility like you knew.
- A. Where the tube is?
- Yeah.
- A. The tube is in between D Block and C Block.
- So you're unimpeded from A to B.

- A. Yep.
- Between B and C.
- A. There's a tube.
- There is a tube.
- A. And then I went, couldn't really go to the right because that's where the brick wall was, and I wasn't really looking for, you know trying to get through any brick walls, so I went to the back of C Block which is a concrete wall and ended up going to the back of D Block and E Block.
- This is on one night, successive nights?
- A. Successive nights. Because it took you a minute to get down through, you know any time you went into a Block you had to be careful, so the CO didn't see you. Because I seen CO's like probably five different times.
- While you were down there?
- A. While I was downstairs, right. Up in the blocks. I went up to the new hospital. I went as far as I could up towards the unit area, following the steam pipes but you couldn't get all the way up.
- That was sort of your guide post, the steam pipe?
- A. Well it was the only way you could really go, so I was figuring there's gotta be a sewer, a sewer hatch somewhere. You could only go so far going up towards the unit because there's a broken pipe up there that was leaking and it was so hot, that you just, you couldn't go any further. So I ended up having to turn back, come back.
- So where would you see the CO's?
- A. I seen CO three different times in C Block, or in A Block and then twice in E Block.
- How could you see?
- A. You'd be downstairs looking up and you're moving through the basement and the doors are usually open so there'd be a CO using the bathroom, or like the CO is having a cigarette, threw his cigarette downstairs, he almost hit me with it. Another CO that, they have their hot water in that area, and he was in there getting the hot water. So I would just stand still and not move.
- So he was back behind?
- A. Behind the door, not actually inside the catwalk, but just outside that first door.
- With an open door?
- A. Yeah an open door.
- I'm just trying to put some timeline on it. So you get out, you first break out of the cell in mid-February, you go down, you the first night you knock through the, you try to knock through the area around the tube, it takes you a night or two you said? And now, so now we're into like mid-

February went down there, scoping it out. What kind of date can you give us next, as to what happened next?

- A. I'd say probably in, it took me couple weeks to finally decide to actually search the whole area, you know, climb old doors, and old hatches.

■ Had you found the sledge at that point?

- A. No, not yet. Yeah it took me a couple weeks to search the whole area, you know, because I had to go into the new hospital area and I searched all underneath that. You know go down each Block, check the backs of the Blocks, check each wall. To get on each side of the steam pipes, so that you could see on both sides whether there was another entrance or exit anywhere, before I decided that I was actually going to go through the brick wall.

■ Had you been on either side of that? No you couldn't because of the brick wall, right?

- A. No. Not until about INAUDIBLE. And even the brick wall, the brick wall took me probably, I would say probably almost two weeks.

■ So if you follow the timeline forward, it took you a couple of weeks doing further reconnaissance around the bottom, so that brings us up to the end of February, beginning of March.

- A. Yep.

■ You decided then on the brick wall.

- A. Then probably, the brick wall probably ran me probably to mid to end of March probably.

■ When did you find the sledge hammer?

- A. Towards the end, because it was real difficult, there were some nights where I was only getting three or four bricks out of the wall because they were really, some of them were really difficult to get out.

■ How thick in terms of bricks was it?

- A. Its three bricks thick. I took, I took probably six or seven bricks wide out, probably four bricks high and then three bricks deep, and most of the time you'd only get three or four bricks a night, so it took me...

■ Working those four, five hours, four and a half hours, from 11:30 to 4?

- A. Yeah. Well most of the time, four was like the max.

■ As as long as you could work?

- A. Right. So most of the time, I'd get too tired, I'd end up coming back around you know, by the time you get there, because it took you a minute to get there because you gotta move slow through the Blocks.

■ So you don't make any noise?

- A. Yeah, so you don't make any noise. There's garbage all over the place down there. Light bulbs, and old pipes and stuff, Styrofoam cups. You step on that and it's like REALLY loud, because there's no sound back there.
- Were there times that that happened, where you made like a noise and froze?
- A. Not really.
- You were pretty quiet?
- A. Yeah, I was pretty careful what I was doing. It was a running joke because back there I'm acting like a ninja. I put a little shirt on my face like a ninja and pop up in the mirror, like "I'm going to be a ninja, man". Just joking around. Yeah it took quite a few weeks to get through that.
- Through the brick wall?
- A. Through the brick wall.
- Were you making it, the whole time were you thinking I gotta make this big enough for MATT?
- A. Yeah, yeah.
- So when you did it...
- A. I knew it had to be at least eleven inches. Problem was I went through above the pipe, which wasn't that bad. If there was two bricks, they had too much concrete poured on them because they're sitting on top of the pipe and over time, they actually adhered themselves to the pipe and only left like an eight inch gap, which there is no way he could fit through there. And I could only get...
- Could you get through there?
- A. Yeah, I ended up going through there, because I could only get the front and the middle section of the left side out, I couldn't get that back section. It wouldn't come out. I couldn't find a way to get a pry bar or anything on it. And I couldn't get at the right angle to swing a sledgehammer to hit it without hitting the handle on the wall, instead of the bricks, so I ended up having to squeeze through it, which was scarier than shit because you actually, I had to actually use my muscles as I'm going through to actually move because it was so constricting and tight, it was like really, really tight fit. And I had to stop like halfway through to try and catch my breath and then try to squeeze myself through and wiggle through. Once I got on the other side, it was pretty easy to knock them out with the sledgehammer.
- Oh okay. Were you banged up from trying to squeeze through there?
- A. Oh man, I had bruises and scrapes all over the place, just from moving around down there. It was pretty bad.
- Did you INAUDIBLE?
- A. INAUDIBLE.
- Q. INAUDIBLE clothes dirty?

A. Oh yeah, yeah. Oh really bad, leaky pipes and everything, damn piss on ya and everything else. Somebody flush the toilet you could hear the water coming, and it'd get ya. You know it'd take you an hour whenever you got back to wash up, clean everything off. I always used the same clothes, I just put them away in the bin that I put the vent in. They would go in the bin that day and go under the bed.

■ What would they be, greens and a t-shirt?

A. It would be green pair of pants, a brown long sleeve shirt and I took a brown t-shirt and cut it up so that I'd have a bandana because I usually have a bald head and a goat-t so the bandana I put on there so it was kind of like a do-rag and it had kind of like the long part in the back INAUDIBLE and my lower part of my face.

■ Oh okay in case somebody, keeping a low profile?

A. Right, everything back there is dirty and brown, brown and grey in color, so you blend right in.

■ So when do you break through the brick wall, about what time is it, the end of March is that what you said?

A. Yeah, it had to be at least the end of March. At least the end of March into April.

■ And you found the toolbox then?

A. Yeah.

■ And where did you find that?

(INTERRUPTION BY STAFF FOR MEDICAL PURPOSES).

■ Do you mind if we come back?

A. Yeah that's fine.

■ Beginning of April, get through the wall, how many times does MATT go down there?

A. Actually the first time he went down, I already started doing the wall.

■ The brick wall, the concrete part of the brick wall?

A. No, no, the concrete wall next to the steam pipe.

■ The exterior wall.

■ Oh okay. So first time he went down there, you had already broke through the brick wall, it had already been January, February, March, beginning of April.

A. Yeah already sometime in April.

■ So then what?

A. So then, at time I was already through I already knew which way I had to go because I had already decided that I was going to follow the steam pipe and try to get as close as I could to the power house.

■ When did you decide that, when you got to the brick wall or before?

A. When I couldn't find any sewer holes, and I started on the brick wall. I'm just gonna follow the steam pipes, I told him we had that too. I said INAUDIBLE.

■ INAUDIBLE you had the hacksaw blades and the sledgehammer.

A. I had the hacksaw blades, I had the sledgehammer. I had...

■ The sledgehammer came from where again, I'm sorry.

A. Just up between C Block and D Block. All underneath them stairs, when you're in the facility is that walk space. And they have an area up there where they keep stuff and they got a thing that's signed by the lieutenant that they can leave the toolbox there.

■ The contractors can leave their toolbox there?

A. Right.

■ And it's like a rolling toolbox right, that's what you're talking about?

A. Well they put it on rollers. I don't know if it's the contractors, if its facility or not.

■ It's one of those big metal boxes?

A. It's probably one of the best secured boxes you can get, because it actually hides the lock itself. So the only part of the lock that's showing is the bottom part of the lock that you put the key in. Their mistake, one was using an old lock, because you use an old lock the tumblers inside become worn down and are easier to pick. Even if it was a new one I probably still would been able to pick it, but not as easily as I was, because it was an old lock.

■ Now, that box was secured, what, to a post?

A. Yeah, they chained it and locked the box itself to the post.

■ That was between C and D?

A. Yeah between C and D Block.

■ Alright but it wasn't behind any sort of grey, other sort of locked area?

A. No because that whole area is locked. That's a secured area. There is no real way to get in there.

■ Except?

A. Cut a hole in your wall.

■ Cut a hole in your cell and go down in the back right.

A. Yeah, yeah so I mean it's really very secure area.

■ Did you see any other tool boxes down there that were behind, like there's is other areas where there's, honestly, there's other areas where like under the stairs, it's almost like a closet but its

secured, so the secured box goes in the secured area. Did you see any of that or did you just happen upon that tool box out in the open?

A. Yeah, just that one.

■ Okay.

A. Yeah, I know there's tons of other tunnels throughout the facility that aren't directly connected to that one or to have brick walls already there. Because if you go through there you will see other brick walls, but there weren't any ways that I thought were conducive to what we were doing. So I didn't even bother with them.

■ So you picked that lock, did you do that every night that you needed a sledge?

A. Every night I needed the small sledgehammer. Because the big sledgehammer was too much to use on the concrete wall, so I picked that and I'd get that small hammer out. I took a couple of masks, breathing masks, both for the dust and because I had to keep crawling.

■ Do you remember what the contract looked like, which contractor it was? Did it say anything on the box?

A. No, there's no names or nothing on it. That's why I said I'm not really sure it was even contractor's tools, because they had a clipboard hanging on the wall that ...

■ Hanging on the wall near the box?

A. Right. An itemized list of what was in the box and it's all signed by the lieutenant you know, saying okay, these are authorized to be in this area. Called it a gang box. So I would assume that it wasn't a contractor's just for that reason, though it may have been. But I took the light, the headlight, which is in the backpack I had, two masks, the punch which I ended up breaking and keeping, I ended up not returning that. because it was a small item, I figured it wouldn't really realize that it was missing and or that they would figure they dropped it somewhere and couldn't find it, which is what they ended up doing because they went and bought a brand new one. And I never used that one.

■ Figured it would give you away?

A. Yeah, kind of obvious. And every night I put the small sledgehammer back and locked the tool box back up.

■ Would you leave it open when you opened the first time so you didn't have to re-pick the lock?

A. Yeah. Yeah. Because I knew nobody was going to be down there that late. So I just, I closed the lid back down and everything I just wouldn't lock it.

■ So the only thing you'd ever INAUDIBLE the punch.

A. The punch and a couple breathing masks.

■ Nothing power?

A. No power tools.

■ Did you intend to use power tools at some point?

A. I did actually. Once I realized that there was drills in there, trying to get through the brick wall, and the easiest way to do that would be to get the, not the brick wall, the concrete wall, to get a couple of concrete drill bits, drill holes into it and the concrete comes out easier.

■ Talking about the wall out of the facility?

A. Out of the facility, right. It's next to the steam pipe. But after I got the drill bits, when I went back, the box was gone and it never came back after that.

■ What period of time was that, that you were using the box?

A. End of April.

■ Because you found it in the middle of April.

A. Beginning, middle of April, somewhere around there.

■ And you used it to INAUDIBLE.

A. Sledgehammer for the brick wall.

■ INAUDIBLE you used the large sledgehammer, okay.

A. I had a small two pound sledgehammer that I was using on the concrete INAUDIBLE.

■ What did you use to pick the lock?

A. I used the, half a pair of tweezers and a paper clip.

■ Is that something you knew how to do?

A. Yeah its simple, I mean it was once you understand how a lock works INAUDIBLE tumblers in place you put a little pressure on the tumbler, once you push it up the edge of it would catch on the upper lip so you just gotta push each pin up to the catch.

■ So you say once you learn it, it's easy? When did you learn that?

A. Well, not even learn it, just once you understand how it works. INAUDIBLE, like I said the mechanics.

■ It was easy.

A. Yeah.

■ Alright, so it's getting towards the end of April, you're down at the steam pipe and the cement wall, the concrete wall.

A. Yep.

■ What's up then?

A. I found a spot of bricks where they got, they must have got lazy and decided they didn't want to concrete the rest of the wall in, so I took the bricks out and there was big boulders and stuff

behind that, I pulled those out but there's still large pad of concrete so I started working on that. It was too hot because it was right above the pipe that was on the left and that was on and it was really hot, so I started working on the right side, underneath the smaller ones. I was getting progress but it was taking a really, really long time. We were laughing and joking about how Andy did it in 20 years, I think we might be able to do it in ten. Because it was really taking a long time. And what ended up happening is, I'm sure you've seen, you said you were down there, see the edge of the pipe in the middle where I was working down at the bottom, I hit that I was like oh fuck it came up through there, the pipe probably goes all the way through the wall which it does, so I decided alright well, the other option is to go up above the other one and start going through that and I only been working on that probably a week and I realize that that steam pipe was off.

■ How long do you think it had been off when you realized it?

A. About a week.

■ Did you notice it wasn't hot down there anymore?

A. Yeah it wasn't as hot. I'm like, INAUDIBLE there's a pressure valve on the bottom right there and it wasn't blowing steam anymore. You know, it wasn't over-pressurizing, nothing, so I thought that was kind of odd. So I went backwards a little ways before you climb up you see where the insulation is pulled down a little bit, it's all INAUDIBLE just for rain coming in and stuff, so I tapped, at first I touched the pipe, realized shit's cold. I tapped on it and I could tell there was no water in it. Fuck it, if they drained that pipe and its empty I might be able to cut into that and go through that and cut my way back out.

■ This is beginning, well we know this is beginning of May because the stuff didn't get, it didn't get turned off, the steam didn't turn off till the beginning of May.

A. Right, the beginning of May. So I went back, because it was too late by the time I realized it to actually check the pipe itself, to see how big it was, or whether it would be, so I went back and I explained it to MATT and I told him...

■ Now had MATT been down there at that point?

A. Yeah, MATT had been down twice by that point. I took him down twice and I took him...

■ And that was largely to do what?

A. The first time I took him down because it had been like four months and he's like, ya know, complaining when I come back because I don't want to talk. I'm tired, I'm working my ass off, I'm sweating, I gotta wash up and everything before the CO does his rounds, get everything back in place and taped up and painted. So I'm like alright I'm gonna take you, which was really funny. There was some comical stuff.

■ Like what?

A. Because he got piss in his face, and he's like oh man I got it right in the face, I got it in the face. I'm laughing my ass off about that. When we were coming back, when you're walking down

there, you know honestly if you've got piss dropping on you, you're stepping in it, and he can't get his big ass up there by himself.

■ Up where?

A. Back up, climbing back up.

■ Into his cell?

A. Right. Going up off the companies, he couldn't get himself through the pipes and tubes either, I had to help him with that, because it's very strange, it's not like it's an easy thing to do. So we're sitting on the pipes, I'm pulling my boots off, he goes "what are you doing", I said "cleaning my boots off". I said "you're cleaning yours off too". He says "do you do this every night". I said "yeah", I said, "take one of them washers down there INAUDIBLE, pull all the gunk out of your boot, and then take your glove off and wipe the bottom of your boots off." He said "I'm not doing that", and I said "bullshit". I said "you're wiping your boot off because you're stepping on my back, there aint no way you're stepping on my back with dirty ass boot". So I ended up helping him up and in the first company you go up is really tight for him, so he was fidgeting to get his chest through and then you know, he's got a gut, so when he finally got his INAUDIBLE, I'm already up you know, he's downstairs, he's standing on a pipe coming up. I'm already up on the first company and his gut plops over the catwalk and he's stuck. It looks like he's stuck there like a half a man with a gut hanging out, and I'm laughing my ass off, in the middle of this. And he's like what's so funny man. I said the way you're fucking gut's hanging out. That was kind of funny. I helped him up. He got stuck in the tube a little bit, after we took the sleeve out, I was kind of, just little funny things. He says oh man you gotta pull me, you gotta pull me. He couldn't believe when he went down through there, he's like "oh man, I would have gave up a long time ago. I can't believe you found all this." What the hell were you going to do, if you didn't get back, just go tell them hey excuse me officer, I cut a hole in the back of my cell.

■ Yeah right. Once you did that.

A. After I did that I was committed. You had no choice but to INAUDIBLE. There was a day, at one point, there was a time I wish I was like oh man I wish I could just seal that damn thing up, and nobody would ever see it. And there's no way out, it wouldn't last forever.

■ Right.

A. I took him down, I got him all the way down because I needed his help INAUDIBLE, electrical light and I took a light and I wanted to hook the electricity up down there, so I needed somebody to go with me to help me carry some of the stuff.

■ Why did you want to hook the electricity up?

A. So I could have light instead of using headlamps. We're burning through a lot of batteries.

■ How were you getting those?

A. Commissary.

■ Oh you were just buying them yourself?

A. Buy them from Commissary.

■ Had MITCHELL brought anything else in that point, do you now of?

A. No, the last thing she brought in were the chisels, the punch.

■ INAUDIBLE.

A. And then once I decided that it would be easier to go through pipe, that's when she brought the other two blades in. Because I had one, one brand new hacksaw blade, I told him I'll need two more blades.

■ You had one more brand new hacksaw blade left when? When she brought those other ones in?

A. When she brought the other two in.

■ But you'd already been working on the pipe at that point?

A. No, I hadn't cut it yet, I hadn't cut into it yet. I was looking at it, we figured it to be about, before we actually cut in, figured it was probably about ½ " cast iron, it ended up being a little less than that.

■ How thick was the thickness out of the cell?

A. The cell was I believe it was like I want to say 3/16th's thick.

■ So that went pretty quick?

A. No, no, it wasn't really quick at all.

■ As compared to the pipe?

A. No, well the thing with the pipe was I had more time to work and by that time...

■ Oh, just on the pipe, you get down there, okay.

A. Yeah, I could just work, I didn't really have to worry about noise.

■ You had three or four hours?

A. Right. I had a couple of hours plus by then I was already, my endurance for the movement, cutting was already high from cutting holes, so I was able to work longer periods of time, even though I was usually INAUDIBLE. The first one on the outside because on the outside of the pipe there INAUDIBLE against it and just cut the sides, and that was the easiest way to do that. But the one on the inside I had to do the same way with the wall. Had to snap the blade in half and then pick out which tooth I wanted to use to start it with and then just you know take half INAUDIBLE got into it, until another tooth and another tooth, would start digging it until you're fully through, max it took me about two and a half, almost three days just to get the blade into the pipe.

■ So you're not punching, starting with a bit, or anything starting a hole there, just the blade?

A. If you hit that with anything it was loud, if you tap it, with the sledgehammer, because I thought about the shawshank thing where he hit it with the rock, and he broke the pipe to climb into the shit tube to get out, so I tapped it with the sledgehammer, man you could hear that fucking thing go all the way down to the power house, all the way the other way, and come all the way back. It was really loud, it echoed the whole way, I said I can't do that, it's way too loud, and I wasn't even hitting it, it was just tap tap and that was too loud.

█. So you got the eyeglasses now with the lights on them down here.

A. Yeah but we didn't even use them.

█ You didn't use them.

A. We didn't use them, no.

█. Why didn't you use them for that, seemed like the perfect thing to use?

A. Because they're, you can't see anything INAUDIBLE a lot brighter, they had a dimmer on them, you could dim them down.

█. The L.E.D. lights, the headlamp?

A. The headlamp lights, because we had two of them. I had the one we took out of the box and one where he got it from. He might have gotten from Ms. MITCHELL, I'm not sure. They're all 82, but they're big LED.

█. Is that contraband for those?

A. Yeah.

Q. In your cell?

A. But we never kept them in our cell. If somebody searched your cell they wouldn't have found anything.

█. Where did you keep everything?

A. You know funniest thing, that's the first time anybody asked me where I kept anything.

█ Yeah.

A. The hacksaw blades, you could have never have found them. You could have turned that cell upside down and they were in the cell. I found the most ridiculous place could have ever thought to found, to find. It took me two and half hours in my cell to find it. Inside this large locker which used to be a CO's locker and for whatever reason got turned into an inmate locker. There's a rib on the side of the locker on the inside, they got some kind of little tacks into them, and the blades are just thin enough to stuff in there. You stuff them right inside, you could bounce that locker around, and they would never come out. The only way to get them out is to take something that's really hard and stiff and push them back out, it's only about that wide.

█. Is that where they are now?

- A. Actually there might be one or two left in there.
- Q. Where was MATT keeping his?
- A. He put his in the back of a canvass thing or something, but once I got through, he handed all his stuff over, so he didn't have nothing in there.
- Did you guys have loose hacksaw blades INAUDIBLE when you both got through your cells?
- A. We still had two blades. Because we both broke a blade in half. And then we both used a brand new blade to get through the back of the cell. So we both had two brand new blades. I burned one up cutting the bolts on the thing that I thought was the sewer.
- It was just like the machinery?
- A. And cutting the large bolt I used as a chisel, the tip of that, I cut thin heavy piece of steel at an angle that I used to help get through the brick wall. That pretty much chewed that up because you know, trying to hold onto it and cut it, started wobbling, bend the blade a little bit. By the time I got to the steam pipe I only had one new blade left.
- And he didn't? And that was ..
- A. He gave me everything.
- You had one blade left for the two of you?
- A. Yeah.
- What about the other stuff that didn't fit into the locker, you know the blades fit into the locker just so.
- A. Everything else I took downstairs and I left there.
- Did you have a place that you put it that was out of the way?
- A. When I made it to the brick wall everything went on the opposite side of the steam pipes, where the brick wall is, where we took the bricks out. Because aint nobody going on that because you had to go between INAUDIBLE.
- And you bricked it back up right every?
- A. Every night I put the bricks back in the wall and everything, cover it right up so that if somebody come over and look with a flashlight, you couldn't tell the difference. And it made it convenient that they were at the ends where nobody would ever have a reason to actually go look.
- You just brick it up like one brick thick or all three bricks?
- A. One side I bricked up the whole one side and I'd brick up the whole other side. A lot of the bricks were broken, which would have just been the middle bricks anyway so I just tossed them on the other side of the steam pipe.
- So, is there stuff that's left down there? Like that you left along the way just because you didn't need it anymore?

- A. No I think the only stuff that was left was right there at the...
- At the steam pipe?
- A. ..at the steam pipe. That's pretty much where everything was.
- So you cut through, tell me about cutting through the steam pipe initially, like into it. You started to cut on the right ...
- A. Yeah, so I started the two sides, the left side and the right side.
- Did you take pretty careful measurements to make sure that both of you could fit through?
- A. Right. Well it was somewhat convenient that as I'm coming back through the next day, after I had the idea of doing it, that they mark on the side of the pipes how big the pipes are.
- Like 17 ½ inches?
- A. As you're going down through, you'll see on the side of the pipe, you'll see twelve, you see fourteen, ten, eight, eighteen, so the one that we went through had an 18 mark on it, so just to be on the safe side, I took two mop handles, I made them so that they were even and then I measured between the two of them, I figured 18", it fits, its 18 and they're ½ " thick walls, I'm going to have at least 17 inches. I figure I got him through a 16 inch wall, he should be able to fit through 18 inches, and crawling through the tube area, was 16 by 11, I had a little bit of space so I knew ...
- You did?
- A. I did. So I knew that if I got into the 17 inch area I would still be able to move around a little bit, just enough to be able to cut my way out once I was in. So what I ended up doing is about 20 inches apart, and then I started on the top and cut across, cutting down into it...
- So when you cut on the sides, you cut the whole distance, 20 inches apart?
- A. 20 inches apart.
- Did you cut the whole line?
- A. The whole line.
- Okay.
- A. Which was somewhere around 17 inches or something.
- You're taking pretty careful measurements so that they matched up when you came through?
- A. Yeah.
- Or didn't you care?
- A. Well I mean I could adjust as I went near INAUDIBLE a little bit, but I made sure that the tops and the bottoms matched just because I started the top one first from the left side going to the right, and I had to cut into it, and it took me way longer than I thought it was going to take. So

on the bottom, you see that I started on the right side, I actually INAUDIBLE as opposed to cutting into it, because it took too long. It actually ended up working out better, because it shaves some time off, and it got me actually a little more distance than where I would have normally gotten. So I cut across the bottom till I was about I'd probably say eight inches, and then I tried to bend it, which didn't work, because it was way too thick. I ended up getting it all the way down to about an inch and a half, two inches, before I was actually able to bend the plate enough so I could work it and just rip it off. And I figured I'd nick the other pipe. Then I measured how far I needed to go from where I cut to where I needed to come out. I'm looking down the sleeve of one of the other pipes and seen the insulation on the other side.

■ Say that again.

A. On all the pipes that go through steel sleeves and there's a gap in between it, because you can't have the pipe against the concrete. So you could look down there and you could see where the insulation was on the other side of the wall, but where the insulation is, is where the wall ends. Where the pipe actually comes out of the wall. I estimated how far that was by using the broom handle and sticking it down as far as I could. And then guessing about how many more feet it was, so I figured 10 to 12 feet down I should be able to cut my way out. I'd be far enough away that I wouldn't be inside the wall, I'd be close enough where I wouldn't come out on one of the support pipes that actually hold the steam pipes up. I actually ended up pretty much right in the middle of them about 12 feet down. My first probably night or two when I did it, it was so hot in there. I mean I was soaked. I come out of there I was drenched, I couldn't stay in that long, it took forever to get into the bowels.

■ Lets break that down. Getting in, the hacksaw, the headlamp.

A. Yep the head lamp, I took you know I still had the long sleeve on and all that.

■ Same clothes?

A. Same clothes.

■ This is about when? Beginning of May?

A. Yeah had to been ...

■ Early May?

A. Early May, middle of the month sometime. It was extraordinarily hot in there.

■ How long did it take you to cut the square part, because that came out in a square if I recall right.

A. The first one?

■ Yeah.

A. Yeah.

■ The other one was kind of oval.

A. Oval, yeah. The first one, two weeks maybe three weeks. It went fairly quick because the lines going down were really fast. I think the first night, I made ten inches, whereas doing the cell, one night you'd get maybe two inches, maybe three if you're lucky.

■ And that's over how many hours?

A. That was over probably I'd say about a three hour period, because it took about a half hour to get there and another half hour to get back.

■ So ten inches in a three hour period?

A. Yeah.

■ In the cell it was two inches or an inch in an hour?

A. Yeah. I mean it ended up being too hot, so what I did was I bought a brand new fan, I took a couple of large garbage bags, I cut them down, made a large tube out of them.

■ Out of the garbage bags?

A. Out of the garbage bags.

■ What did you fasten them with?

A. I taped them and rubber band them.

■ Like with duct tape?

A. No, no, scotch tape and a couple of rubber bands to the fan and then screwed the fan, because it's got a little clip on it, onto the far side of where I cut the hole, and turn the fan on, I'd let the tube, the first thing I did when I got down there was I turned the fan on, let the tube fill, fill the pipe with fresh air, cool the pipe off because it would still be a little hot with the other pipe being so close to it. And then I'd turn it off, slide the whole tube up the other way, crawl in, I'd take a folded blanket.

■ And you'd slide the tube back towards the jail?

A. Back towards the jail.

■ So you wouldn't get all over it.

A. So then I would be able to pull it down behind.

■ Oh okay.

A. And then once I get in there, I get my tools, everything, I rubber band them to the blanket, put a couple of rubber bands on it, I was using the blanket as a pillow.

■ Just to be a little bit more comfortable and not scrape the shit out of yourself?

A. Right. So you didn't have to lay your head on the pipe. What I ended up doing was I cut a sock and made little elbow pads out the sock because if your skin rubbed against the walls of the pipe it was like sandpaper, it would tear your arm plus it would turn it orange. So I put all my tools

and everything, the rubber bands on top of the blanket and then I would take a little corner of the tube and I'd stuff it under one of the rubber bands and turn the fan on and just crawl backwards until I got to the point where I was twelve feet in. I left a little marker, until I actually started cutting in.

■ So you backed into the pipe?

A. Yeah backed in.

■ With your feet out towards freedom?

A. Right. Because it's at a slight angle. It has to be for drainage, for when you drain the pipes. I didn't want to be upside down.

■ Oh okay.

A. Back down into it. Plus that's where your air is anyway, you want your air blowing on your head, on your face. So I got down there and I could roll the tube up a little bit, or pull it down a little bit if I needed to, a little bit more, as close as I could.

■ And that made a big difference, you could feel that?

A. Huge difference, it was fresh air all the time. Sometimes if the wind blew too hard, it would blow hot air off one of the other pipes in, but it was still fresh air, and it would only last for a few seconds.

■ And you kept down the whole time?

A. The whole time, once I got that and I got it set up right, I was able to lay in the pipe for like three hours without coming out. I'm sure you seen the candy bar wrappers in there too.

■ Yeah.

A. I'd stop take a break about halfway through, eat a candy bar, drink a little water, I had a little squirt bottle in there. I'd squirt myself and drink a little water out of it. I would squirt where I was cutting because if you didn't squirt it, the fiberglass would fall in INAUDIBLE, so if you squirted, it'd keep the fiberglass wet and matted down. INAUDIBLE. And that cutting out was actually quicker, once I actually cut into it, cutting out was actually a lot quicker than the other one because it was small.

■ Really? The hole was small?

A. The hole was small.

■ Yeah.

A. I made it just big enough for him to fit. I made it, I think it was 17 by 16, not measuring across wise, but the actual length of the cuts, some of them 17 x 16.

■ You had that marked down on the inside?

- A. I kind of did it as I went and I measure as I went. You see the line kind of weeble wobbles a little bit. It's a little disorienting when you're in a pipe. Sometimes it's had to follow INAUDIBLE.
- And you were able to move your arms like just enough?
- A. Yeah, I could actually take my arm from below and put it above me, and a lot of times I would do that to cool myself off.
- So you were kind of laying on your back doing this?
- A. Yep, laying on my back from the beginning because I did the top cut first. And then I'd have to shift to my side in order...
- Are you right-handed? Were you working with both hands?
- A. I'm right-handed. I did the whole damn thing left-handed.
- Yeah right, correct.
- A. It took me a minute, but after like the first day or two, you know my muscles got used to doing it. I ended up snapping a lot of blades.
- How many did you have?
- A. We had three at the time. I burned through all of them, cutting that last one out because its INAUDIBLE and getting over a little, a little over-zealous trying to cut too fast and bending them. I mean you can get away with bending them a little bit until they get INAUDIBLE and then they just snap.
- So you kept cutting through, left-handed, how long did that take, how many nights?
- A. That took me right up to...
- You said it took two or three days just to cut into it.
- A. Just to cut in took about two and a half, three days. Just to actually get the INAUDIBLE.
- Q. Two weeks, three weeks?
- A. About two three weeks, took me right up until June 4th. And June 4th was the first day I actually got the plate to come out, which was a real pain because they had put in several pieces of plastic because there was a grate above it and they didn't want the water hitting on the piping or on the insulation, so they actually wrapped it with several hard pieces of plastic. So I had to stuff the plate down the actual side of the tube, inside between the pipe itself and the insulation. And then I had to kind of kick my way out with my knees, through the plastic and the rest of the insulation. It was pretty bad because I got covered in fiberglass. I crawled out the hole, I see where it was and I'd walk all the way down to the power house.
- That was night of June 4th?
- A. That was the night of June 4th.
- That was the morning of June 4th, right?

A. Morning of June 4th, correct.

■ So that was Thursday right?

A. Thursday.

■ What time was that when you poked through?

A. That would have been, that would have been ...

■ Friday morning.

A. I went Friday morning.

■ So that was the 5th then?

A. That's the 5th?

■ Saturday was the 6th, which was the day you guys showed up not in your cells.

A. Okay, so it would have been the 5th. I made it all the way down to the power house.

■ Just walking down that ..

A. Just kept walking. Got all the way down, actually inside the power house, I stopped just...

■ Did you know where you were at that point, like, did you have, you know good...

A. Yeah, I knew the direction and stuff because ...

■ Because you were led to the power house?

A. Yeah, there's a grate on one side..

■ You could see as you're walking too.

A. Right, it squared me out with the industry building and the wall. When I came out of the pipe, there's another grate that squared me with the wall.

■ It's right outside the wall.

A. Right.

■ Did you try and get up in there at all?

A. No. The state guys asked me that too.

■ Well because there's footprints.

A. Footprints, yeah.

■ You didn't?

A. No not at all. I wasn't worried about anybody looking down and seeing it because the pipe just above it, actually hangs just enough over it to block the view of the hole, plus I put the plastic back.

- Oh you mean you weren't looking, nobody would see inside to see the hole that you already dug?
- A. If somebody was doing a round and for whatever reason looked down in there, they wouldn't be able to see that. And I figured there's no way any of these guys are gonna walk all the way to the end, for no reason, unless the pipe blows. So I ended up walking all the way to the steam house, the power house and I didn't go in, for obvious reason, it had lights on and everything else. So I backtracked away from that, went to the first manhole cover.
- Which was where in relation to the power house? Not inside the power, pretty close to it right?
- A. Yeah, it's in the yard.
- It's in the power house yard, right?
- A. Yeah, it's in the power house yard, right in the middle.
- Right by the parking lot?
- A. Yeah. I pushed that right out of the way and popped my head out and looked around, because when I first looked, it was real dark and I could see the power house and it looked black because there is one section of it that doesn't have lights, so I popped my head right out and you could see all the state vehicles parked there, and you could see the garage doors open and the lights on.
- There's no lock on that or anything?
- A. No, there's no lock on that one. You could tell nobody used it because there was like a billion old cobwebs on there, it was just completely covered. I decided that wasn't a good option because we would come up, there could be a guy comes up, smoke a cigarette, comes out to get in one of the trucks because they drive around at night time. So I backtracked to the next manhole cover, the larger one that had a chain to it and all I had left was a stupid little tiny piece of hacksaw blade, which I had to end up holding in between my fingers to cut the chain. What I was trying to do, was cut half the chain at the top, and then bend it down so I could just unhook the chain from itself, look and then hook it back, but the damn thing ended up breaking.
- The chain broke?
- A. Yeah, the chain, I cut through half and it still wouldn't bend, so I cut through, halfway through the other half of it and I tried to bend it down instead of bending, it just snapped. The whole chain fell. So I ended up ...
- You were what, like up on there, did you cut it up ...
- A. It was all the way up right against the...
- Oh there's a little ladder there, that's right.
- A. Yeah, there's a little ladder, climbed right up against it. This is like 4 clock in the morning now, so I didn't have very much time. So I pushed the manhole up a little bit so I could look around, I

seen the old school building which they turned into like a gym or something, and I could see a couple houses and INAUDIBLE sign, so I kind of knew where I was. I knew where ...

■ This is about 4 in the morning?

A. About 4 in the morning.

■ When did you hit the power house, what time was that? Half an hour before, 15 minutes?

A. Probably half an hour, 15 minutes before that. And then I didn't come all the way up, but I had no idea I was in the middle of the road either. So I put that back down, I went down and picked the chain up, brought it all the way back up, and I had a finger part of a toenail clipper left so I took that and I stuffed it through the chain and I stuffed it into the side of, between the concrete and the rim of the manhole cover, so it would hold the chain up there, so INAUDIBLE so it was still connected. You wouldn't be able to tell, you'd look up and say okay it's still connected. And then I ran back as fast as I could because it was late. I wanted to have time to get back and...

■ So you got out, went down to the power house, didn't come out in the power house, came out in the next one but didn't like the look of it.

A. I came out in the power house.

■ Outside the power house or in the house?

A. In the power house.

■ Just picked it...

A. No, no, in the power house was wide open it opened right into a huge area with all the colored painted pipes and everything.

■ Like walking right down the...

A. Inside of it.

Q. Did you climb down that ladder at the end of the tunnel, into the power house?

A. No. There's actually no ladder. If you go to the end of that where it goes into the power house, the only way across to where there's a catwalk or you know another block area, is to actually walk across one of the pipes and you can see that the other maintenance guys had done that before, but I wasn't going in there, because I didn't know where people were or what their rounds were like, if they do rounds, so I stayed right out of there.

Q. Is it a straight run going from the walls to the power house or did you have to make turns?

A. You had to make a turn. It was almost a complete straight run. It's a real long tunnel, then you turn right, you went I'd say a half a block and you turn left for maybe 50 feet and you're inside the power house. INAUDIBLE.

Q. No gate or anything there?

- A. No gate, it was all straight through, right from the wall, which is understandable considering they chained and locked all the manhole covers except for the one that was inside the yard. And then I went all the way back to the other one. I actually ran back to my cell because it was so late, it took me probably 15 minutes and I was dying when I got back there. INAUDIBLE.
- It would suck to come out of it, outside the prison wall only to get, be late for the morning count.
- A. Yeah. Count is at 5:30, I figured 4:00 o'clock.
- You still had to get cleaned up and stuff.
- A. Yeah I still had to clean up. Seal and paint the vent.
- So that was Friday morning the 5th, started late at night on the 4th, Thursday and it was Friday morning the 5th, three o'clock, four o'clock time frame, you came out in the power house, came out in the manhole cover outside the power house and then came ultimately, sawed that...
- A. Chain.
- And you popped your head up there too. And you ran all the way back. Okay. So then what happened?
- A. I get all the way to the cell and me and MATT had this thing where once I got out we were going to smoke a cigarette, and I don't really smoke, but he bought me a pack of Marlborough's so before I got him up, I lit the cigarette and knocked on his wall and stuck a mirror over so he seen me, seen the cigarette, he goes "are you serious, are you kidding me, you made it through?" And he thought that you know I just made it through the pipe. I said "no dude, I made it out, twice, and I came back".
- You meant twice like ...
- A. I actually had my head out into freedom.
- Oh okay. Two separate nights INAUDIBLE.
- A. So he got all excited and stuff, he INAUDIBLE after that, I cleaned up and put everything away and went to sleep, I was pretty tired.
- So where was JOYCE in all this, like the connection with her?
- A. She was supposed to come pick us up that night.
- How did that get established?
- A. Well, she said she would come pick us up. I don't know what deal she made with him, with her husband or whatever, because it always changed. It was oh, we'll do it when we leave.
- We'll do what when he leaves?
- A. Kill her husband, you know because he was playing her too. He wasn't going to kill him. He told me he wasn't.

- MATT wasn't?
- A. No. Because he's, her husband is a good dude, he's not, I mean he doesn't really treat her the way he should. But talks, he's always been a great dude, he's always been nice to us, an alright guy. So he kept going back and forth with her, playing her to whatever it was that she wanted INAUDIBLE.
- Which is what, which is you?
- A. INAUDIBLE, she wanted to be with me, while she's blowing him, I don't, ya know. Get rid of him and MATT's telling her, listen you gotta tell her, you can't kill her husband when we leave, there's not enough time. Some stupid shit, just make something up.
- She was that gullible?
- A. Yeah, yeah. But she really wanted him dead, wanted to get rid of her husband, she kept bringing up the \$500,000 insurance policy, and all the stuff was in his name and she don't want to do it because she don't want to lose all the stuff, so she don't want to just leave him, because everything is in his name, as opposed to ya know. She's fucking nuts.
- So it was very unclear what was going to happen with him?
- A. Yeah, we kind of just left it kind of...
- Did she ever say who the insurance policy was with?
- A. No. I don't know what she told MATT.
- Was MATT telling you about the insurance policy or did you hear her say it?
- A. No he told me about it. He told me, the only reason he told me, she said it in front of somebody else in the shop.
- She said it in front of somebody?
- A. Right. For whatever reason she was pissed off, and she goes, oh pop my husband, he's worth more to me dead, than he is alive. And I guess he yelled at her, what are you doing, are you stupid.
- Who said that, MATT?
- A. MATT. You can't be saying shit like that, what's wrong with you. Yeah, her whole thing, even in the little notes she wrote me, oh you guys gotta get rid of the glitch.
- That was her name for him?
- A. She kept calling him the glitch.
- Q. How did she get notes to you, because you're in a different shop?
- A. She'd pass him through to MATT INAUDIBLE.
- Do you have any of them?

- A. No, always got rid of them, never keep notes, never write nothing back.
- Q. Did you have any direct contact with her after you left Tailor 8?
- A. None, whatsoever.
- Q. INAUDIBLE.
- A. She worked Tailor 8 for overtime, but she knew the people that were watching us, and told MATT, if she comes in that shop, she just can't come over and start talking to you, because the other civilians is already watching her. INAUDIBLE just you know say "hey SWEAT how's everything going?", "oh it's good, its good, everything's good, doing okay". Really other than that we didn't talk or anything.
- Q. Did MATT tell you about he was having sex with her?
- A. After we left.
- Q. After you're gone?
- A. We're walking down the road the first night, he says "oh yeah, I wanna tell you something too, I just wanna let you know, I know you don't care, he says but I want to let you know that Ms. MITCHELL gave me a blow job over in Tailor 9". I'm like "what the hell did you do that for". So you know I've been down so many years, she was like.., it came about because he said "oh you're having sex with SWEAT in the back" because he was using her, saying SWEAT wants to be with you, and loves you and all this other stuff. I'm gonna have to get me a hooker or something to take care of me, and she said something along the lines of "well, if we can't find nobody, I'll take care of that for you". He said "oh yeah, really". So he ended up pulling his shit out when she was in 9, and he was laughing about it, and she was like "oh no", and he said she just went right down on him. I was like what the fuck is that, kind of retarded. I didn't say nothing to him, but probably part of the reason, INAUDIBLE she wouldn't show up, she had said to him, he told me, don't tell DAVE because if you do that, I might as well just stay with my husband. He's a real dumbass.
- Q. Because you won't like her anymore, right?
- A. Yeah, yeah. You're blowing my friend, what's the matter with you, you're telling me you love me and all this other stuff. Which I didn't care about anyway, I just wanted a ride.
- Q. Did he say that they were screwing in Tailor shop?
- A. No, I guess it was just that one time.
- Q. Just that one thing.
- Where did that happen? Like you said Tailor 9, like how can that happen in a prison setting, like where does it happen?
- A. I guess they had gone over there, it was really quick, it was only for a moment, I guess she just stepped in there, he went over there for something.

- Where?
- A. It's right next to Tailor 8. INAUDIBLE.
- It's secluded in some manner, so no one would see in.
- A. Yeah it's a closed shop. There's no one in there.
- There's no CO, oh closed shop as in it...
- A. It's a dead shop yeah.
- Q. Tailor 1, you were there quite a while when she was there. She was ...
- A. She was there with me for probably about a year and a half.
- Q. What's the supervision like in that place, Tailor 1 when you were there?
- A. It's actually pretty good, I mean it was lax, but they didn't bother people about smoking and stuff like that, because you know guys are going to smoke either way, so they didn't really say nothing about smoking. As long as you're a good worker. Maybe you're smoking, they get rid of you, you're a jerk-off that's the excuse, here's your smoking ticket, see ya. But overall supervision, there's a CO in all the time and every once in a while he might go next door, he'll have to run downstairs for something but that usually almost never happens.
- How often INAUDIBLE.
- A. The CO that comes in is the CO INAUDIBLE.
- Which is how long?
- A. From 7:30 right up until we leave.
- Which is?
- A. Its normally just after three, but even if you have to stay that CO cannot leave, he has to stay on overtime. He's not allowed to leave the shop until industry is clear. Until the shop is INAUDIBLE, he has to count everybody going out.
- Q. INAUDIBLE CO in the shop?
- A. Yeah well, a lot of the CO's sign out on jobs. It's a good gig if the administration that runs the shops aren't such asses. A lot of the CO's and CO's that sign up will tell you they signed out because of the civilians, not because of the inmates.
- Civilian supervisors?
- A. Yeah.
- So they have some measure of control?
- A. Working in the shops, VICKI, because they have all types of problems with them too.
- The CO's do?

- A. Yeah.
- Q. So I'm trying to understand everything that you're understanding of everything that Mrs. MITCHELL brought in to MATT. Did she bring a chisel? Did he get a chisel from her?
- A. She brought all the same, all together, three different size security star bits, security star, the circle like an Allan wrench.
- Q. What are those for?
- A. For, because we figured we would run into gates, downstairs, and we didn't. Eight hacksaw blades, two different size chisels, a punch, and two concrete drill bits, is all the tools. And she'd always bring us in stuff, like food and stuff INAUDIBLE. Brownies, and stuff, tell her to bring me brownies, send brownies, I love brownies. So I would tell her all the time tell her to send me brownies.
- Q. And they were coming out of the shop how?
- A. They'd just bring them back.
- Q. Not the brownies, the tools?
- A. Oh the tools. Various ways, two of the hacksaw blades came in a pack of hamburger, the two chisels, the punch and the two drill bits came in a pack of hamburger.
- Two different packs of hamburger?
- A. Two different packs of hamburger, at two separate times.
- Which were when?
- A. I couldn't tell you.
- Hacksaw blades first, or the chisels and drill bits?
- A. The chisels and drill bits first. Because that's when I was working on the concrete wall. Then the hacksaw blades.
- Q. So two chisels and a drill bit in the pack of meat.
- A. Two chisels, two drill bits and the punch.
- In the first pack of meat?
- A. Right, in the first pack of meat.
- Which was, had to be before May when you started drilling through the wall.
- A. Yeah.
- And understanding was that those came in through MITCHELL?
- A. Yeah.

- What about PALMER, was he involved in the, I know he was involved in the transfer of meat, but...
- A. Yeah he transferred, he had no idea whatsoever about the tools.
- And I'm not trying to screw PALMER, he's already fucked, so.
- A. Yeah I know. Yeah no, he had no idea whatsoever of us INAUDIBLE, he had no clue whatsoever.
- Q. How big were the chisels?
- A. The chisels were you know five and a half inches long, I'm sure you've seen them, five and a half inches long, I think one was a $\frac{3}{4}$ inch and the other one I believe was $\frac{1}{2}$ inch, so not very large.
- Did MATT tell you how he got those through, security, past metal detectors?
- A. The hamburger.
- Oh when they came through the hamburger, they got walked in?
- A. Yeah, he just had PALMER bring them back. I think the first time he used the, he had, he had some other stuff he had to do too, paintings and stuff. And I think what he did was he told PALMER, can you bring me back, I got some hamburger for a painting I did, which is normal for me to get food for paintings. I think what he did to circumvent the metal detector I think he said he had if I'm remembering right, he had paint, a couple of tubes of paint, a couple brushes, that he told PALMER he'd tape to his body, so PALMER is like oh okay. Usually PALMER would pick us up paint and stuff and we'd do paintings for him. INAUDIBLE take it back because we didn't figure he'd do something like that. I know it's still illegal for him to do that.
- Q. Other INAUDIBLE down in the shop, anytime they'd come into the shop, did you have to go through the metal detector every time?
- A. Every time you come out of the shop, to actually leave at the end of the day, you go through the metal detector. If you're going on any callouts you went through the metal detector. The only time you don't go to the metal detector is when you're going to lunch, but what they do is randomly, they'll pick a shop, you won't know what shop it'll be and that shop will get sent through the metal detector.
- Q. So anything that needs to be moved to the other part of the jail from the shops, gets moved during lunch time? Getting through the kitchen, right? That's how a lot of stuff is getting through, right?
- A. INAUDIBLE massive facility, I can give you a hundred different ways to get stuff out of the industry. I mean I could leave stuff outside the industry building for maintenance guy to pick up. I could leave it right out there for INAUDIBLE to pick up, I could leave it out there for groundskeepers that go out and mow the lawns and everything, they could pick that up you know just leave it in a specific area when I'm out there. The place is, it's so spread out, there's so many people there that it makes it difficult to actually, that facility shouldn't be the type of facility it is. It shouldn't be a dumping ground for jackasses coming out of the boxes. That should have been a facility designed for inmates who aren't getting in trouble or not getting tons of

tickets, fights, and stabbing each other. Because you have a large industry you have programming, people who actually want to learn stuff can actually learn things. You've got a yard that's conducive to you know social behaviors, where you know you're interacting with people are outside making businesses, they're actually doing like normal businesses. I'm making food set-ups and stuff you're selling food and everything. And there's a lot of perks to that facility other facilities don't have as opposed to just using it as a dumping ground INAUDIBLE sending all the idiots. That's why they keep having all the riots up there, because they just bump you there from the box.

■ I do want to discuss those things with you too, at some point. I don't know if we'll get to all that today.

A. Yeah.

■ But you know there is a lot of issues about programming and you know ways in which DOCCS can run better systems.

A. Absolutely.

■ And you know, there's new facilities, there's old facilities, and for what it's worth, I'm hoping we can talk about that at some point too.

A. Sure. I don't have any problem with that.

■ What would you have done if there was a frisk in the facility? Sounds like you didn't keep anything in your cell.

A. No, Nothing in your cell, and we actually anticipated a frisk.

■ What would you have done?

A. Nothing, just went through the frisk. We actually were, we believed we were getting one because there was 34 man fist fight, and they came around with feed-up trays in the morning. Usually when there's feed-up trays in the morning, usually means a frisk in the facility. I didn't figure on them doing that for the single fact that Albany's been tight on money. They didn't want to pay overtime for any frisking facilities. A fight was all fists, there were no weapons involved. The Superintendent of the facility doesn't like to lock the facility down because he feels he makes him look bad in Albany's eyes. Like he's not controlling his facility, so what he did, which is what I anticipated him to do, was just lock down INAUDIBLE that were involved and search their blocks which is what he did. But had they come in and actually searched, I don't care. I know they wouldn't have found nothing in my cell and I'm pretty sure they wouldn't have seen that wall, I did a pretty good job of covering it up. MATT's on the other hand, I have no idea, they probably would have seen his. He's kind of a dumb-ass.

Q. If they hit the wall though in the back?

A. Yeah, it wouldn't have fell out.

Q. Wouldn't of?

- A. No I took, because I made two, INAUDIBLE two pieces of paperclip and I made little, like 's' type hooks on them and taped them inside to the top, so when you set the plate in and set it against it, just the sheer weight of the vent itself would pull against it, would keep it there tight. Plus I taped it in place. And once you tape it and paint it INAUDIBLE. You have to actually pull all that stuff off real good before you can even pull the vent out.
- Q. Unless they INAUDIBLE.
- A. Right, and they can't even do that, because from the back you would have to kick it. From the front INAUDIBLE, for me to take it out, I used to take a shoestring and stick it through the vent itself and make a handle so I could hold onto it and pull it out. It's heavy, plate of steel, there's more steel on it for good vent and everything so it's got a good weight to it.
- Q. From the time you started cutting in January, you never had a cell search?
- A. Never had a cell search.
- Did they ever do bar hammer checks? You know what I'm talking about?
- A. They were actually in the middle of their, we were laughing about that too, so INAUDIBLE, they were actually in the middle of their security checks where they go, what they do is they start and they go around the outside of every building with a lift and they check all the outside bars of every building and then what they do is they come inside and they'll check all the roof areas where we don't have access to, tops of the cells and stuff. Usually the way it works, somebody will go by and they'll do bar checks, you know, just walk by.
- Q. So they so do do it?
- A. Yeah they do it. Once a year they do a security check, a full facility security check and they were pretty much right in the middle of that when we left.
- But that wasn't going find your...
- A. No, because nobody would ever expect you to go that way. If you're going to do something, you gotta do something people don't expect. And that's a pretty tough way to get out INAUDIBLE.
- Q. What did they do to limit razor exchange on the weekend?
- A. Razor INAUDIBLE change every weekend INAUDIBLE. Some of the CO's are a little lax, but when they're coming through they'll actually look in your cell just to make sure that you're at the cell standards, that it's not a mess, that you don't have stuff where you're not supposed to. You know, the beds made INAUDIBLE you don't have anything covering INAUDIBLE. Any visuals, so they can see under your bed, see the back of your wall. They'll have some CO's INAUDIBLE do that, but not a lot.
- Q. INAUDIBLE.
- A. No not really. They're trying to do ID check and they got paper in one hand with your name and number, they're looking INAUDIBLE. Usually two CO's when they do it. But in A Block and Honor Block they're a little more lax with that stuff, as opposed to other blocks. When I was in C Block

some of the CO's in there were a little more stringent on that. They'd be right on top of you for all that stuff.

Q. Do they check the catwalk during that?

A. No.

Q. Do they ever check the catwalk?

A. Not really, I mean you'd hear them back there. People don't like going back there because half of the pipes leak, so if you walk back there chances are you're going to get pissed on, unless you're on the third floor.

■ The catwalk itself too, is spongey and ...

A. Yeah, doesn't seem...

■ It seems like you'd go through it if you were ...

A. INAUDIBLE.

Q. INAUDIBLE CO's back there on a daily basis?

A. No, no. Maybe a couple times a month.

Q. Couple times a month.

■ And the reason you went back there, the only reason you went back there was to change the electrical configuration?

A. Yeah.

■ I mean obviously you were back there for some other reasons.

A. INAUDIBLE.

Q. When you go to another block, not the Honor Block, what was the night checks like there?

A. Pretty close about the same. Used to have a lot of the younger CO's who INAUDIBLE some of the old guys who do rounds at night, they'll walk, but they won't shine the light in your cell, because they're not really supposed to do that. They're not supposed to be hitting you with the flashlight, because if you're waking somebody up every hour walking around, that's not INAUDIBLE. But you'd still have CO's walking in some of the other blocks, not all the time. It depend on the CO.

Q. But where you were INAUDIBLE A Block?

A. Right, it's Honor Block, so they...

Q. INAUDIBLE. Were they sleeping, could you tell if they were asleep?

A. I know one guy always goes to sleep. I don't, I didn't ever see him go to sleep, I know that's what he was doing. The fucker, he got the ventilation turned off at night because it was too loud. He

cut the ice, the hose on the ice machine because it would run at nighttime, INAUDIBLE ice, so he cut it, because it kept waking him up.

■ That's the guy that...

A. The guy that we left on his shift.

■ Would you really have stayed an extra day or two, if it wasn't his shift? You said that to us the other day, you really wanted to leave on his shift.

A. Yeah, we really wanted to leave on his shift. He was that bad, you could be in the middle of sleep, and that fucker would wake you up and make you move to see your face at 11:30 at night. And I yelled at him a couple of times about it. "What the fuck are you doing, this aint count time, don't be waking me up". I'm fucking trying to sleep, I only get a couple hours as it is, ya know.

■ But he wouldn't do it again after 11:30?

A. Nope, you wouldn't see him again after 11:30.

■ You were talking about your ID a little while ago. Had you guys gotten new ID pictures?

A. Yeah, we just got them taken.

■ You did right?

A. Yeah.

■ For what reason?

A. CMC.

■ Just because it was time?

A. Yep, every like two years everybody.

■ Either one of your appearances really change or anything like that. He hadn't lost a lot of weight, or was he trying to lose weight?

A. Huh?

■ You've lost a lot of weight, though.

A. Yeah.

■ But I remember looking at your most recent picture.

A. Oh yeah, yeah.

■ 165 but the picture before that you were like 195 or something like that.

A. Yeah.

■ Was that just as a result of the work?

A. Yeah.

Was he trying to lose weight so he could fit through these places?

A. Yeah, yeah.

Anyone ever said anything to you guys about that, any staff members about your appearance, your facial, INAUDIBLE weight.

A. INAUDIBLE Oh guys I'm going on a diet. INAUDIBLE cut down and then I used the excuse I was working out in my cell and I injured my shoulder. So I wasn't even working out and I was losing weight. I said "well I'm still working out, I'm just doing more calisthenics stuff, tighten and tone my muscles as opposed to bulking up." All those people went for that too.

Q. Did you know anything about the escape from Elmira, a few years ago?

A. Yep.

Q. What did you know about that?

A. That they're dumbasses.

How did you know so much about, we talked about this the other night.

A. INAUDIBLE what you hear from CO's, you hear over time from other inmates when people were there, people who knew them, people who know them. And they the stuff they did was so stupid, I mean, they had no real plan other than getting out. And one guy was life in prison, the guy was talking about it yesterday, I was listening to him, funny as hell.

Guy in here?

A. Yeah. Guy had his wrist wrapped in, the guy that broke his arm, his ankle, had his wrist wrapped in the sheet and he's got it stuck, so he's trying to push himself up the wall to get his wrist out. Like a, yeah and he got his wrist out but he didn't have all the sheet, because he's pressing on the wall. So they fell and hit the wall. But I know they went for like five days, somewhere around five days. INAUDIBLE. But then they went to a gas station and stole a car at a gas station, they guy just went inside to pay for gas and you steal a white van, or white truck or something. You're out of your mind, you just escaped from prison you're going to steal a car. It's like throwing a red flag, hey I'm over here, you know. It was pretty stupid.

Q. Had you ever seen an official report or anything on that, read anything on it?

A. No.

What about like blueprints and maps of the facility? I forgot to ask you that. Nothing, it sounds like once you got down to the catwalk you started to figure it out?

A. Yeah.

You know I mean, like INAUDIBLE room blueprints and maps.

- A. I have no blueprints or maps. I mean I left the New York State map behind. I'm sure if I had a blueprint or something I would have left that because I wouldn't have needed it. No blueprints, no maps.
- Q. So MITCHELL didn't bring you a map?
- A. New York State map.
- Q. The New York State map, a road map?
- A. Yeah, a road map.
- You left that, you forgot it, it was in the ...
- A. Yeah I forgot it, I left it in the bag of tools with all the gloves...
- Would that have been useful to you?
- A. It might have been, the first night, because...
- When she didn't show.
- A. And she didn't show up, right because I could have been able to follow a more direct route that we would have wanted to go as opposed to kind of just winging it. We pretty much ended up going in the right direction anyway.
- Right. So if I can, I'd just kind of like to go back to the evening of the escape. So what sort of transpired, starting with how did you get word to MITCHELL?
- A. Through MATT. You know I told him, I said I'll write her letters INAUDIBLE man, she's gotta be there at 12 o'clock sharp. I said dude, If she's not there, ya know. But he told her, he said listen you have to be there twelve. She's like "I'll be there, I'll be there". I haven't failed you guys yet. And he told her, if you're not there, we're dead, they're going to kill us. He says "you understand if you don't show up, they're going to kill us, we're dead". "No, no, I'm going to be there. I'm going to be there." He said she was acting funny, she started, the rest of the day, she was acting like she was sick, like she was holding her stomach the whole time, and stuff, so.
- You hadn't seen her at all for several months?
- A. Yeah, she'd be outside with other civilians at the end of the day INAUDIBLE. Other than that, I hadn't seen her because she worked Tailor 8 two or three times for overtime, but I didn't stay for overtime.
- So you were pretty dependent on MATT to get information to her because she was the one person that was helping?
- A. Right.
- Alright, so you said you wrote her a letter?
- A. Yeah.
- Was that during the day, that day?

A. Yeah. I wrote her that one.

■ And how did the letter get out of your hands to where it was supposed to go?

A. Just give it to him. I just give it to MATT, he took it to her. This is where we're going to come out, try to park as close as you can to the manhole cover.

■ How did you know what the streets were?

A. Well, you know, landmark, we knew where the school was. That was simple enough plus if you go up into the third floor, look in the library, you could look out and Tailor 3 and Tailor 1, Tailor 2, you look up you can see all that.

■ Did you know what the name of the streets were?

A. No. I just told her the manhole cover kitty-corner from the old school building.

■ How did you know it was an old school?

A. Oh you can tell it's a school.

■ From looking out the Tailor building or from popping the manhole cover up?

A. From both, and your CO's talk sometimes, I think a CO owns the gym or something.

Q. Were you worried back in September when you got written up that you were going to get thrown out of Honor Block?

A. Yes I was. That was a very big thing for me. Because at first that's what they wanted, for whatever reason, they had it in their minds that they believed Ms. SHAFFORD completely. That me and Ms. MITCHELL were having a relationship and they wanted me locked up for 30 days, they wanted me removed from A Block. The lieutenant knew it was bullshit once he talked to me, and he actually talked to, he called SCOTT SCHOLIS and talked to SCOTT SCHOLIS and I knew SCOTT said it's not really my decision, that he can't come back. So the lieutenant was really lenient on actually leaving me on A Block and not actually locking me up for 30 days like they wanted to give me.

Q. That would have been the end right, you would have been gone? If you got 30 days keep-lock?

A. If I got 30 days keep-lock they would have sent me probably to like D Block or something.

Q. Just for 30 days and then back?

A. Just for 30 days and then I would have ended up going to a regular block.

Q. Oh.

A. C or B.

Q. So you would have been screwed, right?

A. Well, I mean at that time I had no plan for escaping. Nothing in the works, or we weren't even talking about it.

- So in the period of time from January to the time that you went out, and back and forth with MITCHELL through MATT, this is what she says, this is what we're thinking about.
- A. Yeah.
- When did you hatch the part of the plan let's not include her in INAUDIBLE.
- A. INAUDIBLE cool with me. I just want to go somewhere you know and just disappear and just live the rest of my life, not be stuck in prison, being treated like an asshole every day by the CO's, and having to look around and these fucking animals that scream all night and yelling on the gate and doing dumb shit to each other all the time.
- Q. Where were you first going to go, rather than Mexico? Once you get away from Dannemora, what was your real plan?
- A. When we first actually left?
- Q. Yeah, when you were going to get in MITCHELL's vehicle?
- A. Oh we were going to go West Virginia. In the mountains of West Virginia for a couple of weeks.
- And she was going to be with you?
- A. Well we weren't sure because she was talking about maybe just driving us as far as she could and dropping us off, which would have been fine with me, I didn't have any problem with that, drive us there, drop us off, we can disappear anyway. But yeah the plan was ya know, West Virginia, we figured on we'd have a little bit of money because she said that she said ya know five or six hundred dollars that she'd be able to bring, for gas, and for food. She had bought INAUDIBLE or something. She had fishing equipment and hunting stuff, INAUDIBLE whatever else we need.
- Hunting equipment being weapons?
- A. Yeah, she had a deer rifle, a INAUDIBLE fishing poles, tackle.
- Is this stuff she bought or is this stuff she had?
- A. She already had. Stuff she already had. She said she could get us some sleeping bags and stuff like that, she said they're pretty cheap.
- Any stuff, did she say ever that she bought those, hey I got the sleeping bags?
- A. Just the clothes, she said something I bought your pants, I told her one of the first things I wanted to do was get out of the state pants, you know get into some regular pants. So she went out, I told her bring me some black cargo pants, so I would have some pockets to put stuff in and everything. She said she got that, I told her she could buy me a shirt or two if she wanted to.
- She say where she got that or anything like that?
- A. No, she said the first time, I think she ordered them or something. I think she said the first time.
- For you and MATT?

- A. Yeah. I guess she brought a pair of pants in for MATT. INAUDIBLE they were too tight, so I guess she went and bought him another pair for some reason, I don't know. The first pair she bought for me, I guess she sent back, had to get new ones because they sent the button fly as opposed to a different fly.
- So on the evening we were talking about that, like on the day that you got a message to MITCHELL, MATT get back to you and say yeah we're ready to go, she's going to pick us up, she's acting kind of funny?
- A. Yeah.
- Alright. And then what?
- A. And we just got everything together and I told him, I said tonight we're leaving INAUDIBLE because INAUDIBLE I knew his schedule INAUDIBLE see the little slash marks in the upper corners INAUDIBLE whenever he worked. Four on two off. So we pretty just much, I told him we'd leave about 11:15, as soon as the guy left, give him a few minutes. We'd leave a little early so we had have enough time to get him all the way down through INAUDIBLE...
- Because it took a while to get down.
- A. With him going down, it took probably about 40, 45 minutes.
- So you were right on, you got there by midnight though?
- A. Yeah, we got there, we had about ten minutes to spare by the time we got there. Because we ended up actually leaving around probably 11:10, and then we just hung out for ten minutes catch our breath and everything. And then we popped up at twelve. Once I had it part way up and I realized I was in the middle of the street, I said well I already got it up now.
- You didn't realize that before?
- A. No, I didn't know... I thought it was kind off to the side. I didn't figure it was ...
- Right in the middle...
- A. Dead center of the four-way. But I knew the wall, the wall towers or nothing couldn't see which was important. So I just pushed it out of the way and I hopped up, and dummy comes up and starts sticking his head out, looking around, I said "Bro, what are you doing, get the fuck out of the manhole, man". I said "I'm already up here, you got the manhole open". So he come out, closed the manhole cover.
- And then what did you do?
- A. Well, I couldn't see her, so I figured we'll walk back towards the power house because it's a little darker back there and there's a road where there's no houses. So as we just started coming out of the road, a car came down from INAUDIBLE, the guy lived in the corner house...
- Towards the prison, away from ...

A. Away from the prison, toward us. The guy, as he comes down and turns into where he lives, fucking MATT runs into the guys back yard. I'm yelling at him "what the fuck are you doing, man"? "Where are you going?" And the guy sees him, so the guy gets out of his car.

■ You did not run into his back yard?

A. No. I'm yelling at MATT trying to get him to come back out and the guy comes around the other side of his house, by then we're already back onto the sidewalk and walking away. And the guy goes "hey what are you fucking scumbags doing in my yard". "Sorry bro, wrong street, we were just cutting through". You know I figured that was good enough. I got a guitar case on my back and stuff. So it's not like he would figure it was two escaped convicts walking around in front of the prison with a guitar case on their back. From there we went another street and took a right INAUDIBLE because she wasn't there, we went up to the main road.

■ 374?

A. Went up to 374, and then walked all the way back to that same road again, the same way we came to check to see if maybe she was just a few minutes late, see if she pulled in somewhere and stopped, but she wasn't there. I said well I guess we're gonna have to go on foot now. So went back up that way and back up to 374, walked up 374, and on 374 that first left as you hit the main part of 374 INAUDIBLE town park. INAUDIBLE six o'clock in the morning because we couldn't walk no more.

■ So you got off 374 pretty quickly?

A. Oh yeah, yeah, it's a main road, we didn't want to stay on there, too much traffic.

■ I remember before you said you know whenever cars were coming, we'd jump in the woods. I thought you meant on 374?

A. No, no, no we got right off that.

■ But that's a side road of some sort, off 374?

A. Yeah.

■ Is it like up the hill a ways?

A. Just a little ways, yup.

■ So you walked down that road for the next five, six hours?

A. Yep.

■ And then what? The sun is coming up at like five?

A. Yeah sun is already been up. We can't see but it's getting bright out. It's a top of hill, we can barely walk, I mean we got huge blisters on our feet and stuff, I've already had one rupture on the back of my heel.

■ Why?

- A. Just from the sheer volume of walking nonstop.
- For six hours?
- A. Six hours of walking in boots. And we find a trail for four-wheelers, so we walked onto that a little ways.
- Up to the right, to the left?
- A. To the left. And it's some place called, new, a new land trust or something, that's up there, I'm not sure. I know there's a sign for it and everything, as you're heading toward it.
- You're heading northwest a little bit at this point?
- A. We figured we'd head northwest, it will take us a long time to head that way, go across the state, we'll go through the woods, everything else. I had the foresight to take you know, planning for the worst, I took like 20 packs of peanuts, I put them all in the big ziplock bag. I took 40 granola bars, we had probably twelve sticks of pepperoni.
- Where did you acquire all of this, at the Commissary?
- A. Commissary, yeah.
- You just saved it over time?
- A. I bought them all right that Thursday.
- Oh you did?
- A. So I threw that and INAUDIBLE backpack INAUDIBLE supplies, clean t-shirts, underwear, socks, sweater.
- Did you guys buy any clothes or anything like that, boots, like in preparation for the escape?
- A. He had bought new boots and the dumbass wore his old ones.
- Say that again.
- A. He bought new boots, and he wore his old ones.
- Oh okay.
- A. Which fell apart, which is pretty stupid.
- These are state issue boots?
- A. No, no INAUDIBLE
- These are boots he bought on overtime? Nothing else though, ya know?
- A. No, no, no special type gear or anything. INAUDIBLE.
- Through cabins and INAUDIBLE.
- A. No, no.

- INAUDIBLE.
- A. Right, I didn't figure on actually seeing that many cabins. INAUDIBLE through the woods.
- At what point in your mind, when she didn't show up, did you decide okay, we're heading northwest, our next best bet is...
- A. About fifteen minutes in.
- And what did you decide?
- A. We just have to wing it. We'll walk north, northwest, stay out of the Adirondacks area because if you go too far to the south, it's just, it's really bad, it's all swamps and lakes and stuff and you could get lost in there for days.
- How did you know that?
- A. Just the topography. Watch tv you know and they got the Adirondacks forest. It's actually part of, the prison itself I think is actually part of the Adirondacks preserve area. So we knew as long as we stayed north northwest we could head that way as far as we could. By the time we came out, INAUDIBLE, we figured enough time would go by that they're not really going to have the road blocks up, they're not going to be searching like in Elmira they didn't search that much. But we were wrong because Ms. MITCHELL went and told on herself, and told on us about was supposed to pick us up so by then we knew that we were still, we were on foot and somewhere in the area. They just didn't know we'd gotten that far already. I figure we'd get somewhere around Route 11 or something, ya know, somewhere on an old farm or something, because old farms always have old vehicles tucked away in garages and shit. And we could probably just steal the whole car at nighttime and drive 70 hours at night, or during the day and whatever needed to be done and disappear again in another state for a while.
- So you were talking still about staying in the U.S., not heading north to Canada?
- A. No heading to Mexico. Canada came up, Canada came up towards the end. We realized that they weren't giving up. They were really searching hard, I mean we were seeing choppers and airplanes, once they started running airplanes at night looking for fires and flashlights, out in the woods, you know, that's when we decided to make a fire.
- How many days in was it?
- A. Well it was a couple of weeks.
- Oh really.
- A. Yeah, probably about almost two weeks I think before we started seeing nighttime airplane and helicopters.
- I think they were up there a lot earlier than that, just in the wrong place.
- A. No, well, they were but not too much at night.
- Oh okay.

- A. At night they were actually running airplanes.
- So you were making fires a couple weeks in right, er, couple days in?
- A. Oh yeah, couple days in we were making fires.
- And continued for a couple of weeks?
- A. Yeah.
- Until you started seeing the heavy air traffic?
- A. Yeah. And then realized you know, and then we found a radio INAUDIBLE listening to the news, so we were keeping updates on where the searches were. And I found a map which was in my backpack I had. So I kind of was able to estimate exactly where I was at all times. Not down to exact but pretty close. Close enough to know how far I was from searchers and stuff like that. You know move around at nighttime on roads when possible. In the woods during the day. I'd usually only sleep for an hour or two. He wanted to sleep for half of the day but. Always tried to keep out of the areas they were at.
- And how were you finding that out?
- A. We'd hear it on the radio, they'd tell you.
- Usually on the radio.
- A. Yeah, they're searching over here, they're looking here. At one point it was they were searching Mountain View, but they decided not to search the actual mountain because it was ridiculous. We ended up actually going up Mountain View the actual mountain they named it after and we didn't even know it, we ended up going up the back side of it, going through a huge swamp area across the creeks and stuff. They were all pretty bad because all overflow from the rain
- Yeah right.
- A. And then climbed this massive mountain and we ended up right on top looking right over lake, absolutely beautiful too. Completely glad that I got to see that, because it was quite a picture. Then we ended up going, at that point, listening to radio we knew they were in Owl's Head. Owl's Head was northwest, quite a ways more west, than Mountain View was. INAUDIBLE lake and swamp area there should be some sort of type of marsh or some change of INAUDIBLE that we should be able to walk through, to get onto the east side of the lake, as opposed to being on the west, if they're going to search, that's where they're going to search because they're not expecting you to walk through that crazy ass swamp, so we ended up going down through there, got on the back side of that lake and by this time, another day and every chance he gets he finds liquor and keeps it and drinking and we're trying to walk and go places.
- Why, he's just starting to erode a little bit?
- A. Yeah, he's just like becoming whatever he was before he got in jail. And it wasn't good. He's talking dumb shit about I'd rather die than go back to prison. I'm like "Dude what are you talking about, you're not dying". I'm not dying and I'm not going back to prison, just keep going. We can't go the way we want, we'll go up to Canada, we can stay in Canada for a year or two,

change your ID and take your ass down to Mexico. He says "oh okay that sounds like a good idea". Part way into the walk that day, we come across, I believe it was a sheriff's vehicle a ways ahead of us. I wasn't sure if they'd seen us, they just got out to look at tracks or whatever and the passenger got out and started walking up the road the other way. It almost looked like he was trying to circle around us, so I figured it was INAUDIBLE, and took off on MATT walking.

■ Like running or just walking away?

A. I ran away from him, I left him there, because he was, he was slowing me down so bad it wasn't funny. I knew if I stayed with him I knew I would get caught. Because you know I'd walk ten, fifteen feet and have to stop and wait a second for him to catch up, he's kind of lumbering on, he keeps drinking, just talking dumb shit. About like getting a car, and how I should just hijack a car and "listen what are you retarded, dude", "what is wrong with you, you can't do that". So I ended up leaving there and started heading north myself.

■ Do you recall what day that was?

A. It was probably three or four days before I got shot. I'd say probably around there.

■ INAUDIBLE.

A. Oh yeah INAUDIBLE what I did before hand was, because I was already thinking that, I'd been thinking about it for a couple days, because he was getting really bad, because they were searching so intent. I used the excuse, ya know, in case we get separated, here's half of the food, I'll give you half, I'll keep half, if we find anything else we'll split it. So I left him the food and I'll just leave him. I took everything else with me. Because I was carrying most of the stuff anyway.

■ Did you still have the guitar?

A. No I ended up getting rid of the guitar case, we found a hiker's pack in an old timer's cabin. And the guitar case wasn't going to last that much longer. It wasn't really built to be toting around INAUDIBLE just tossed it.

■ Do you remember where that was?

A. Not far from the guy's cabin.

■ The cabin where you picked up the ..

A. The backpack. I couldn't tell you where, I have no idea.

■ How many cabins overall do you think you were in?

A. Actual cabins, not really sure, I would say maybe six.

■ How many deer pods and deer blinds?

A. Deer blinds, I think we were in four different deer blinds.

■ Those are big enough for the both you to get up in?

A. Yeah.

■ While you were up in those, I think I saw something, did you see somebody, did you see people?

A. No, no, no. The only time, I didn't see anybody when I was in the deer blinds. The only thing I ever saw in the deer blind was, the last deer blind two nights before I got caught, was I could see, it was a high deer blind, it was like in the middle of the swamp, so I could see where the searchers were just below Malone, you know INAUDIBLE. I had compasses.

■ So what do you mean you could see them?

A. I could see the helicopters.

■ Oh.

A. Doing their INAUDIBLE.

■ So you were still quite far away?

A. Oh yeah.

■ You couldn't actually see anybody that was searching for you. Or any police or anything like that?

A. I've seen cops go by on roads and stuff and cars, but that's about it.

■ There is no opportunity where you could have like taken somebody?

A. Oh yeah there was plenty of opportunities, I would have never done that.

■ Right, I remember you telling us that before. Was MATT talking about doing that?

A. Yeah. That's why I left him. Because fucking idiot, he's talking about, we're walking alongside the lake, he's talking about taking a boat and going up the lake and all types of shit, and I'm like you're retarded, where are you going, what are ya gonna get to the other end and sink the boat? Not to mention, I'm pretty sure there's, they got some kind of cop out there on a boat running up and down the lake, checking people. He was just, he was just, he was getting out of control, his drinking was out of control.

■ Would he get just really freaking hammered, or what?

A. Yeah, he would say, it's all we do is just keep drinking.

■ Do you think it was the pressure was too much for him?

A. I think that was just him. I think he just liked to drink. INAUDIBLE for some reason.

■ What about, was the CO's cabin, the one in ■ or whatever that was called, is that the first cabin you stayed in?

A. Yeah.

■ So you reached that place pretty quickly after you got out?

- A. No, actually we found a deer blind, an old, and we actually stayed in the deer blind for probably about two or three days because it was raining pretty good. And then it took us another few days to cross the mountains before we found [REDACTED], and we ended up staying there for, we stayed there for 2 days I think it was.
- [REDACTED] There was food there?
- A. Yeah, there was food, there was liquor, there was weed. So they had everything.
- [REDACTED] Right.
- Q. Did you ever run into any, come across anybody, walking, hiker,
- A. No, no.
- Q. Farmer, somebody out, never came face to face or even within sight of anybody, like nearby?
- A. No, the only time I saw, physically saw somebody that saw me, was at the just below Burke, there's a waterfall, people go and swim, and take pictures and stuff and I see a guy down by the falls, I was up above it a ways, and I see him down there, he's just sitting down there INAUDIBLE. So I played it off, I had binoculars, so I pulled the binoculars out and seen him, so I started looking in the trees, like I was looking at birds and stuff, pretending like I pulled something out of my pack and wrote it down, look back up in the trees, so he figured I was just some ass plop bird watching. Just kept moving on.
- [REDACTED] What about when you were at the CO cabin, take me through that one, how it came that the ATV came up, and you guys split.
- A. Oh at [REDACTED], I heard the ATV coming.
- [REDACTED] Where were you at the time?
- A. We were both inside, heard the ATV coming, ran out the door, I said somebody's coming, somebody's coming, grab your shit. He goes "we should take him, we should take him". I'm like what are you talking about, take him? We aint takin' nobody, grab your shit, we gotta go, gotta go.
- [REDACTED] Did you have that shotgun at the time?
- A. Yeah. He had the shotgun.
- [REDACTED] Was there any shells?
- A. No, there was no shells. Of course the guy coming up, he says "we should take him", "no we gotta go, we gotta go". INAUDIBLE
- [REDACTED] Were you together at that time, like right together running out?
- A. Yeah, we INAUDIBLE when we first went out he was in front of me. Of course by the time we got down the hill, I was quite a ways in front of him, running up the creek already. That guy never really, he never saw us. We never really saw the guy, he was yelling at the house, he thought somebody was still in the house. "Come out, come out, who's in there, come out".

■ Was he armed or you didn't know?

A. I had no idea.

■ You could hear him though?

A. Yeah, he jumped right back on his four wheel and hauled ass.

■ Any thought of going back to actually taking him, like MATT said?

A. No, no, no. That would have been absolutely dumb. What are you going to do, you take the guy, then what are you going to do?

■ Right, and it doesn't make any sense. I know I asked you this the other night, the significance of the note coming out of the prison, or like the "don't test me", and "I'm a punk" or something like that.

A. Oh "are you trying me"?

■ Yeah.

A. That was just a running joke between me and him because you know he sat behind me in shop and he said something to me and I just turned around and told him "are you trying me punk", and he thought it was funny as hell. You'll see that that's his hand writing, not mine.

■ Oh is that right?

A. Yeah, and I like aliens and stuff I think that shits kind of cool. So for whatever reason, he found it in magazines and he wrote it on there and sent it over, and I kept it. I mean, this is...

■ This is ...

A. ...months before, right, it wasn't something I picked out and did intentionally.

■ This was even before you planned the escape?

A. Oh yeah, way way before, at least a year before. I just kept them because I thought they were cool, "are you trying me punk", and when we were getting ready to leave I thought it would be funny, because the brick wall was hard to get through.

■ Oh yeah.

A. The tube took me a minute, so he was like "are you trying me punk". The "have a nice day" was INAUDIBLE.

■ Where did you get that, did you draw that?

A. The "have a nice day"?

■ Yeah.

A. No, one of my buddies gave it to me, in the print shop.

■ Yeah, because it looked like it was computerized.

A. Yeah, he just prints up funny stuff. He was like "hey I got something for you". INAUDIBLE.

Q. Just one thing?

A. Yeah just one. You know, "have a nice day" and put that in the pipe.

■ Did you plan to do that?

A. Oh yeah, yeah.

■ Yeah.

A. INAUDIBLE.

■ Did you ever, that particular thing that looks a lot like a episode on television, did anybody ever ask you that?

A. I didn't even make it, so I don't know.

■ Who was the guy behind it?

■ Did you leave any notes or anything like that once you got out? On any telephone poles or anything like that?

A. No, the state guy asked me that too. Nothing, never wrote anything down, never left anything.

■ There was one thing you said earlier about your calendar, the slash marks about the days that the officer was working?

A. Oh, the right corner of the date.

■ Did you use any other marks for any other, like significant parts like the fifth or whatever the day is you broke through, did you use any marks?

A. I think I might have wrote on your, when I started the tube or when I started the pipe, I'm not real sure.

■ On the calendar?

A. On the calendar. It might be there. I think I wrote a "t" or something for tube. Maybe something else INAUDIBLE.

■ Why did you do that?

A. So I knew how long it took me to do it.

■ Did you write anything, except for the two little notes you left?

A. No, I didn't write nothing.

■ Did you keep a running tally of any of these marks on your calendar, the whole time through? Like when you started and ended? Or just when you hit the tube?

A. I think I just INAUDIBLE. I think I marked that because I wanted to know how long it took me to INAUDIBLE I could guess on how long it would take me to get through the second side.

■ Okay.

■ Other people like MITCHELL, INAUDIBLE, that easily?

A. (no reply)

■ I'm not asking for names, but I mean I know, she was clearly somebody who is capable of being manipulated.

A. Not really sure.

Q. Did you figure out that she was somebody who might be able to help you?

A. No, MATT did.

Q. He did all that?

A. Yeah.

■ Did either you or MATT ever act as INAUDIBLE.

A. No. I don't know about, I don't know whether MATT did or not. I would think he didn't, but.

■ You would think what?

A. I would think he didn't, but I couldn't say for sure.

■ What about you?

A. No.

■ From what you described before, it wasn't your style?

A. No, no.

■ Was MATT involved in any of the liquor ■ trade in there?

A. He was doing some of the liquor stuff because he had gotten some, INAUDIBLE from Ms. MITCHELL.

■ So using that, he could provide any information to PALMER?

A. No, he wasn't doin' that.

■ He wasn't doing that.

A. I think all he was doing was he was INAUDIBLE I'll give you a small bag of INAUDIBLE so you can make your liquor. Just pick me up whatever, this amount of food, or that amount of food.

■ He wasn't his snitch then?

A. Yeah, no I don't think so.

■ How did the paintings, how did you get the paintings out, how did the CO's get the paintings out?

A. Just brought them out.

■ Like big paintings, just rolled up?

A. INAUDIBLE hard canvass, just wrap them up and carry them out. I mean there stealing all types of shit anyway, so it's not like INAUDIBLE.

■ What about INAUDIBLE.

A. Ah, you know, state toothbrushes and stupid shit like that.

■ Yeah.

A. I was really, surprised to find the weed though, that was funny, it's like a kid finding candy.

■ Where did they have that hidden?

A. It was in this little white container, in the corner of the cabinet. It had been there for a minute because it was all dirty, it had fucking mouse turds on it and shit, and the only reason I looked because these dumb bastards for whatever reason, used the can to smoke the weed out of and they left the can there. So I looked and I seen the hole in the bottom of the can, INAUDIBLE, fuckers are in here smoking weed or something. I showed MATT, he goes oh yeah. I looked and I seen the little white thing, I pulled it up. That damn thing was practically full of weed. I guess you get to drink tonight and I'm smoking some weed.

■ Except for the radio, INAUDIBLE.

A. No, just the radio.

■ Did you keep it tuned to one station?

A. No, there was a guy in the morning, he'd do regular updates, every hour.

■ Where was he out of?

A. WPZN, I think it was.

■ That's Plattsburgh. WPZ?

A. Yeah. And he'd give regular updates on what's going on, "Search for SWEAT and MATT.." and he laughed a couple of times. We liked him because when he mentioned the thing about the, "so it's been you know two weeks and state police came out with a sketch of how the two inmates could look", and you could hear him laughing, apparently he looked at the sketch and he's like really? And then the other one was they were taunting police and they left a note, that said "have a nice day", and he started laughing again. So we liked him, because he'd make little funny comments and laugh about it. He, at one point was referring to us as the "for my band of criminals who escaped Clinton Correctional Facility in the Shawshank Redemption style", and then he played this song, "Man on the Run". So we like stayed with him, because he'd always give good updates INAUDIBLE.

■ INAUDIBLE follow that?

- A. Absolutely, sure.
- So you knew that TILLY had been arrested and all of that?
- A. Oh yeah, yeah. That was a shock, we were really surprised. That caught us off, that actually made us move from where we were. INAUDIBLE. Deer blind area, and it was old so we knew it had been there for a really long time, and we redid it, made it nice.
- Oh this is the first place you got to?
- A. Yeah, one of the first places. We stayed there for a couple of nights, it kept raining and stuff. There was actually another CO's, not a cabin, but some kind of camp place, not far from there, we stole some beers and food and stuff and we were sitting around, we made a little fire, we're sitting around the fire, we're drinking a couple of beers, we stole like a 12 pack or something and it came right over the radio, she's there, and they're searching here and we weren't exactly sure yet, exactly where we were because we hadn't had any maps, didn't have any compasses and we weren't that far, maybe a mountain and a half, maybe two from where we actually left the road, where we had heard the helicopter. Once that came on and they said that they knew that we were somewhere in the area, I said well we gotta get moving in the morning, we gotta go, spend the night here, you know and then in the morning we gotta leave. So we left there and INAUDIBLE unless you found some of the stay closed stuff, that he took off there. He probably wouldn't have because everything was peppered, so the dog wouldn't sniff it out, they would have left it alone. And we left a couple of full cans of beer, didn't drink that many. INAUDIBLE guys are there, took the beer with them. Just little things to throw people off. Then hauled ass over a couple of huge mountains and got stuck on top of one of the really high mountains that had like no brush on it at all except for a canopy on the top, and we froze our asses off.
- Was that the night you were telling me, you put the foil blanket out?
- A. No, no, this was a different night. Because it didn't rain, it was just really cold, because we were on top of the mountain.
- So high.
- INAUDIBLE.
- A. INAUDIBLE.
- One of those things you see on t.v. right?
- A. Yeah, I mean a lot of this stuff is bullshit, you know INAUDIBLE that dog would be right on your ass. Water is not going to get rid of it, you can't use scent stuff, the only thing that is going to deter a dog from chasing you is pepper. That's it. That's the only thing that's going to stop a dog INAUDIBLE.
- You guys must have been pretty concerned about the dogs, giving you heard everything.
- A. Well, especially once we heard that INAUDIBLE and everything else. What really got us moving was when they said they found footprint and candy wrapper. What we didn't know was they

found footprint and candy wrappers along the way, we thought it was, because I had thrown a candy wrapper, by accident. I was just so tired, I just kept moving, I needed more energy so I actually ate a candy bar and instead of sticking it in my pocket or the Ziploc bag, like I should have been doing, I tossed it, and I figured oh man they fucking found that wrapper, to they know what direction we're going. So that was another one of the reasons why we INAUDIBLE.

■ What about, what were some of the things that INAUDIBLE the report on the radio, the thing about the candy wrapper kind of got you moving.

A. Yeah.

■ The information about JOYCE getting arrested, anything else, like about the search, you know where it was positioned, the air support?

A. Well we would know if they were close, or they're searching this and all, in the east, we knew they were searching pretty hard in Cadyville and the Clinton County Sheriff INAUDIBLE police officer in Clinton County INAUDIBLE kept going on. By then we already knew that we were in Franklin, we weren't even in Clinton County, we had already gone down Wolf Pond Road.

■ How did you guys feel about that, like were you shitting, about where INAUDIBLE?

A. I said well we're doing good, they're fucking chasing footprints from a gas station, they found two footprints, boot prints from a gas station, everything else. Well we must be doing alright, because they're looking in the wrong fucking area. So we said, we're doing okay, we just gotta keep going.

■ Any other state issued stuff, like shoes and stuff that was going out and that you had records of, anything like that, or that you bought before you left, I think we talked about ...

A. No I didn't even buy anything to go, most of the stuff I already had, you know because I figured INAUDIBLE. I was hoping that it would turn out the way it was supposed to, that we would get picked up and drove away. It would be simple, we'd just disappear in the INAUDIBLE.

■ Were you going to drive as far as you could to West Virginia, and that was the plan?

A. Yeah.

■ How far away did you guys estimate that that was?

A. We figured we could make West Virginia, 8 or 9 hours maybe, at least.

■ In your INAUDIBLE

A. No, he said it a couple of times and I pretty much screamed on him, because we'd already had the conversation...

■ Was this when you were out already, or is this when you're still in?

A. Both before and after. I told him, "dude man I told you before, anybody you know, anybody that they have any kind of contact with, anybody on the phone with, anybody you ever wrote to, anybody that could say I know he knows that person, you can never talk to again, because as

soon as you do, they're going to be right on your ass". I said if you're going to do that, you can go your own fucking way. He's like, "no, no, no, you're right, you're right, you're right". You know he was constantly stuff like that. INAUDIBLE.

■ INAUDIBLE smart guy.

A. Not really. I thought he was a little smarter than he was.

■ Turned out to be on the road.

A. I thought he would be a little better shape, INAUDIBLE because I had asked him a couple of times, I said well what do you know about like survival stuff, "oh yeah, yeah, I know survival stuff, I've done survival, I ran the INAUDIBLE in Mexico last time". Alright, well you did it before then you INAUDIBLE.

■ When he decided to turn and go to Canada, did he ever say that he knew anybody in Canada? Nothing like that?

A. No.

■ Ever say he'd been there?

A. Nope, that was my idea.

■ Did you guys, did you have a particular destination in Canada, or just going to push north?

A. No, not really, I was just going, once I got into Canada, I was going to stick to northwest, kind of get up, ya know away from everybody, where people there are real friendly...

■ You've been up there before?

A. ..do a little bit of work. No, no, you see programs, and you see things when you watch t.v. and stuff. I figured I'd get up around people, like country folk and hey listen I'm down and out, I need a place to live, go. I'm a hard worker, I learn fast. I just need a warm place to sleep and a little bit of food, and I'll just work for you, and kind of build myself up from there.

Q. Did you have a new identity picked out?

A. Yeah, my name's already James Tuttle.

Q. James?

A. James Tuttle, I was going to ■.

■ You really were?

A. Yeah. INAUDIBLE. His name was going to be Tony Goya. I said yeah that sounds like an Italian Mexican. Hey my name is Tony Goya.

■ Anything that like, I don't know, things you wish you did differently, good decisions, bad decisions?

A. There's tons.

■ Not go to jail in the first place?

- A. Yeah. That would have been a great start. If I were to go anywhere, I'd go back and do what I should have been done in the day. Because I know if I never would have ended up in prison, I would have ended up in the military. The bad thing would have been INAUDIBLE. I know I would have ended up with a couple of businesses, automotive shop and maybe a few other things, a pizzeria and things like that. I'd always liked that idea. Kind of blew all that shit. I kind of wish I didn't do INAUDIBLE other shit. I had to try it, I figured I spend the rest of my life in prison. I know it's fucked up, I know it's wrong. At the same point I can't see too many people not understanding my position either. Especially the, since I went so far out of my way. Everything I did INAUDIBLE to make sure people didn't get hurt and to just disappear. That's INAUDIBLE.

■ If you get the chance again, will you try that?

- A. No. INAUDIBLE sucked. And I kick myself in the ass because, see the whole thing with running INAUDIBLE, or anything. You have to be right a hundred percent of the time. You guys only had to be right on this. That day that cop was right, I fucked up. Instead of doing what I normally do, walk part way into the field and sit into the bush for a few minutes and wait for the cop to go by, move a little bit, sit back in again until I'm far enough in where he couldn't see me. For whatever fucking reason, I thought I could make the distance.

■ You were just trying to get across the road, is that what you were trying to do?

- A. Yeah, I actually already made it across, I was trying to make it into the far off tree line, by walking down a tree barrier, a brush line. Had I made it to that, I don't think you guys would have caught me, I'm not sure, but I think that was pretty close to one of the last roads I ever had to cross before I actually made it into Canada. I knew the Canadian Border, INAUDIBLE past the border patrol, I think that would have been too big of a deal. Once up into Canada, I would have been able to just disappear.

■ Why didn't you do what you normally would have done?

- A. I think what it was, was I felt pressured because I felt the last place I had stopped, I had stopped too close to somebody, I don't know if it was a house, I don't know if it was a road block or check or something, and I could just barely make out, I'm sitting, I'm eating I can just barely make out something white and I couldn't even, I couldn't even catch somebody with binoculars, so as I'm eating, and I already set up a lien-to, I could hear somebody saying something and then I heard a dog. Now I'm in my rain gear, my rain gear is loud. I only had the bottom rain gear on, I already took the top off, because it had stopped raining and I was under the lien-to so I took everything down real quick and I started moving away from the area. But as I started moving, the dog started barking, so now I'm not sure if it's a cop or not because its white, close enough to the border, the border patrol's car are white, stripes, so I started moving a little faster, and I come across the side where I could see through a field, see road and I see a fucking border patrol gang go by with a trailer on the back, an enclosed trailer and I know it was a four-wheeler in the back of that thing, closed trailer, so I'm thinking oh shit, the dog must have picked me up, picked up my scent and they called somebody in on the four-wheeler to see if they could run the road, try to catch me with listening devices, because I know that they deploy those too, the

headphones with the little directional microphones. So I'm throwing pepper all over myself so that the dog couldn't track me, so now they're down to, I'm figuring down to footprints and noise, so I stop and get my rain pants off as fast as I could and I make it over several barbed wire fences through some slightly swamped areas, across a couple more fields and I made it across one road and I came to that last road and I seen that State Trooper go by. I said okay if it's a state trooper and not the border patrol, he's just wandering back and forth and I gotten pretty close to the outside of the perimeter, because he's not staying still, he's moving, so I let him move, I moved down a little bit, I move again I move down a little bit. I got right up close and I pretty much had him timed out so I knew how long it took him to get from one end to the other and then he didn't show up for a minute, so I sat and waited, and the time took longer both times, so I said alright he must be running another road as well to cover for somebody else. I figured it was just enough time, if I can make it across the road and all the way to the next tree line, and once I hit that tree line, I'm ghost, I'm gone. I never made it to the tree line, because what he did was, he didn't change his route, the fucker slowed down, because I could hear him coming and going, you know the tires on the wet dirt road, you could hear coming and going. This time I really couldn't hear him until he just rolled the tree line, I heard something I turned, I looked and I just I was like ah fuck man. I said there is no way he didn't just see me. I'm too far from the tree line on the right and I'm way too far from the trees in front of me, so I try to just keep walking, hoping he would keep looking in toward the search area as opposed to look out but he didn't. He saw me, he started calling for me "hey, hey you". At first he thought I was one of the police officers, you know I'm all camo'd out, I got camo hat on, everything matches, I'm wearing a blacked out, INAUDIBLE, and I'm shaved. The only thing I got is the mustache because I just shaved the night before. And then I know this because I heard him tell another officer that. He's "when I first saw him, I thought he was one of us. I thought he was somebody searching". So I turned and I tried to play it off, you know, I took my hat off and everything, so that he could see that I didn't have like a big bush of hair, head of hair and big ass beard, oh okay it's just one of the guys, "no, no, I'm good, I'm good" I'm hoping please, he says "oh come here for a minute, come here". Like ah fuck "no, no I'm good", I turn around and started walking away. He's like "hey, hey get back here". I was like fuck, the only chance I got is try and make it to that tree line.

■ How far away was that?

- A. I'm not even sure, too damn far, because I didn't make it. when I ran for the tree line, the damn backpack was just too heavy, so I tried to ditch the backpack, it was no big deal, I could go a couple of days you know on stream water, whatever I could forage, ya know, you eat worms and grubs and beetles or anything like that. I got pretty close to that, and he got me twice, both his shots, the first one hit me in the upper right, shut all the nerves off to the right arm and everything and the second one hit me on the left, the first one broke the right clavicle and the second one was just a clean through, and knocked me right to the ground, spitting up blood and he ran up on me "don't move, don't move". Of course now I can feel my lungs fill up with the blood, so I'm trying to INAUDIBLE him "I'm dying, I'm dying, you shot me in the back, I can't believe you shot me". I'm spitting the blood up, you didn't hear me tell you I don't have a weapon man, don't shoot me. "Don't move I'll shoot you". I said "dude I gotta turn, I gotta

empty, my lungs are filled up with blood”, and I was moving still, but I was just going slow because I didn’t want him to shoot me again.

■ Were you down on the ground though?

A. Oh yeah, I was on the ground and then I had to sit back up INAUDIBLE I have to sit up, I can’t stay laying or I’ll choke. And as I’m saying it, the blood is just pouring out my mouth, and somebody else finally got there and you know, the guy that got there was a little calmer. This guy, I don’t know if he’s ever shot anybody before or not, but the other guy that got there, he listened to me a little bit more and kind of understand what I was trying to tell him, because I was spitting up blood. “Don’t spit on me”. I’m like “I’m not, I’m just trying to get it out of my mouth”. Once they got there, it was alright, the cops did help me, which I was kind of surprised, there one asshole make a comment, but other than that, everybody was pretty fair about it, you gotta lean me to the left, I gotta a lung that’s full. INAUDIBLE sit me back up, sit me back up. It was pretty bad at first. I wasn’t sure I was going to make it, if the ambulance didn’t get there as quick as it did.

■ Did they ask who you were?

A. Nah they didn’t. Other than that, I really I know it’s a legitimate shot because you escape from prison you don’t have any standards, they can shoot you anytime they want. But I was hoping INAUDIBLE I dropped the pack, put my arms out to the side. I’m running like I’m running through a field with my arms out, don’t shoot me, I don’t have a weapon, I don’t have a weapon. Pow, Pow. Fuck.

■ Did you ever think about just stopping?

A. I mean I was so close man, it was just so hard. I’ve gone through, I mean I’ve gone through so much. Six months all the work and then them three plus weeks of you know, surviving and going through the woods, you know massive blisters, popping them, ripping the skin off. Freezing cold nights, I had already been through so much, that just I couldn’t see not trying. I said I gotta try, at least hopefully the guy don’t shoot me. I’m figuring, I’m like he’s by himself, figuring he’s not going to shoot me, INAUDIBLE he might not shoot me. He might let me run into the woods and call in back up and surround me. Then I’ll have a good chance because they’re not going to just zip through the woods, especially if I don’t have my pack on me, be able to move through really quick and I know they’re not expecting that. Being that I’ve been out there for three weeks.

■ Yeah, did you feel like you were pretty conscious of what you were doing?

A. Oh absolutely.

■ Physically fit and all that stuff?

A. Absolutely. Better tell these guys I’m in better shape than they were.

■ I don’t know if anybody would argue.

A. Oh yeah, I was flat out running through the fields, and all. When I knew that there was no road against the field and them behind me, and I had my pack, I was just straight running, there was no, it wasn’t a light jog, I was running, I was like sprinting. I was in great shape, figured I spent

the last ya know twelve, thirteen years in the yard, every day lifting weights. And then the last six months, I'm down doing all types of stuff, you know letting myself down and pulling myself back up, you know three flights every night. Crawling through all the pipes, and through holes in tubes and all types of shit. So I was probably, when I started, probably about the best physical shape I been in. Even though I had lost a lot of muscle mass. But most of that was just water weight anyway.

■ Well, you certainly went through a lot.

A. I did. INAUDIBLE I know I'm as good as INAUDIBLE. I can hear them talking about me, aw man, poor bastards.

■ I think I'm about...

■ I think we've had enough. Are you tired? How's that arm doing, starting to get mobility in it?

A. It's pretty much the same as its been, I can close it, I can't open it.

■ They have you doing therapy on it or anything like that?

A. Yeah, she just started where she'll lift the arm, and I gotta stretch to the side, to try and INAUDIBLE the nerves. They're not sure if the nerves are destroyed or they're just been shocked and haven't had a chance to wake up because there's still some swelling and INAUDIBLE. I have to wait until after INAUDIBLE. How does this all work with like the box and all that other stuff?

■ Well, you'll first go through a hearing like you normally would. INAUDIBLE. It's not going to be a secret, I can't tell you what kind of time you're going to get or anything at this point. But you're going to be doing some box time.

A. I figured.

■ I know it's the last thing you want to do, but you know you gotta kind of...

A. INAUDIBLE.

■ Envision what you're going to be doing. I know you need your mind active and stuff but you're going to have to start bringing it towards you're gonna be...

A. Yeah, that's going to be tough, box is going to be tough.

■ You're a pretty tough guy though so.

A. Yeah.

■ I'm going to be around for a long time, so you can write me and you know I can come talk to you once in a while and stuff like that, so, you know. Take it one day at a time at this point.

A. Yeah. Kind of what I do anyway.

■ Okay. Alright DAVE, well hang in there.

A. Alright.

■ I appreciate it again, you talking to us.

A. No problem.

■ You've been nothing but a gentleman since the first time I saw you that night, Sunday night. You guys good?

Q. Yeah

■ Thanks Dave.

A. Thanks very much.

■ Probably see you again soon, but give you some rest.